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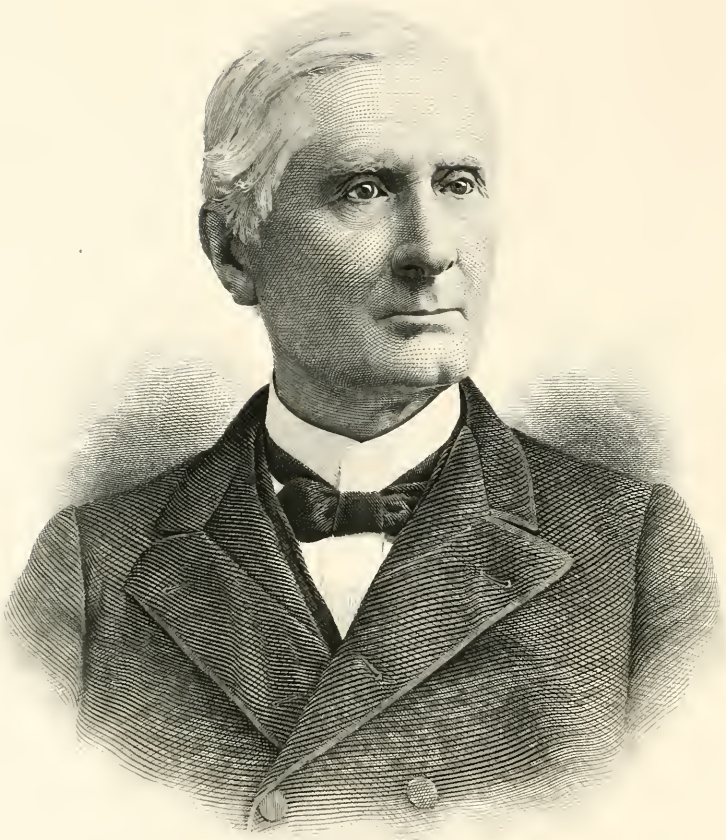

52D CONGRESS, 1st Session. } SENATE. { MIS. DOC. No. 229.

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

ON THE

LIFE AND CHARACTER

OF

EPHRAIM KING WILSON

(A SENATOR FROM MARYLAND),

DELIVERED IN THE

SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

MAY 6 AND JULY 2, 1892.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1893.

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Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That there be printed of the eulogies delivered in Congress upon the Hon. EPHRAIM KING WILSON, late a Senator from the State of Maryland, 8,000 copies, which shall include 50 copies to be bound in full Morocco, to be delivered to the family of the deceased, and of those remaining, 2,600 copies shall be for the use of the Senate, and 5,350 for the use of the House of Representatives; and the Secretary of the Treasury is directed to have engraved and printed a portrait of the said EPHRAIM KING WILSON to accompany said eulogies.

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DEATH AND FUNERAL OF SENATOR WILSON.

Hon. Ephraim King Wilson, United States Senator from the State of Maryland, died at his apartments in the Hamilton House, Washington, at five minutes past 10 o'clock p. m., Tuesday, February 24, 1891, of organic disease of the heart.

The life so suddenly ended had been one of usefulness and distinction. The outlines of his career, sketched with characteristic modesty by himself, are as follows:

Ephraim King Wilson, of Snow Hill, was born at Snow Hill, Maryland, December 22, 1821, was educated at Union Academy, Snow Hill, and at Washington Academy, Princess Anne, Maryland, and graduated at Jefferson College, Pennsylvania in 1841; studied law and practiced in that profession for twenty years; was a member of the Maryland house of delegates in 1847; was an elector for Pierce and King in 1852; was a Representative in the Forty-second Congress; was judge of the first judicial circuit of Maryland from 1878 to 1884; was elected to the United States Senate as a Democrat to succeed James B. Groome, Democrat, and took his seat March 4, 1885. His term of service will expire March 3, 1891.

Mr. Wilson had been reëlected for the term beginning March 4, 1891.

The death of Mr. Wilson was announced the following morning in the Senate by Mr. Gorman, and in the House of Representatives by Mr. Gibson. After the appointment of committees to take charge of the funeral ceremonies, and to escort the remains to their last resting place, both Houses, as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, adjourned.

The committee on the part of the Senate was composed of the following Senators: Mr. Gorman, of Maryland; Mr. Gray, of

Delaware; Mr. Jones, of Arkansas; Mr. Faulkner, of West Virginia; Mr. Pasco, of Florida; Mr. Spooner, of Wisconsin; Mr. Mitchell, of Oregon; Mr. Wilson, of Iowa; and Mr. Dixon, of Rhode Island; and on the part of the House of Representatives, of the following Representatives: Mr. Gibson, Mr. Rusk, Mr. McComas, Mr. Stump, Mr. Stockbridge, and Mr. Mudd, of Maryland; Mr. Stone, of Missouri; Mr. Browne, of Virginia; and Mr. Abbott, of Texas.

Brief but impressive funeral services were held Monday morning at the Hamilton House, and were attended by the President, the Vice-President, members of the Senate and House of Representatives, and friends of the deceased statesman. The remains of Mr. WILSON were then placed on a special train which left Washington about noon of the same day, and they were accompanied by the family of the deceased and the committee of the Senate and House of Representatives. At Baltimore Governor Jackson joined the party and went with them to Snow Hill, as did also Messrs. J. Harry Preston, William C. Harden, and Edward McMaster, a committee of the house of delegates of Maryland, who had been appointed by Speaker Hubner to coöperate with the committee of the senate of Maryland, consisting of Senators Smith, of Worcester, Peter, of Howard, and Randall, of Anne Arundel, which had been appointed by President Brattan.

When Snow Hill, the home of the dead Senator, was reached, a large number of his neighbors and friends were waiting at the station to attest by their presence their sorrow at the death of Mr. WILSON, and their regret for the loss which the State has suffered by his decease.

The funeral took place at Snow Hill, Friday, February 27. No ceremonies were held at the house of the deceased, whither his remains had been borne, but at 11 o'clock the funeral cortége proceeded to Makemie Memorial Presbyterian Church.

The esteem in which the dead statesman was held was shown by the large concourse which followed his remains to their last resting place. The public buildings in the town were closed, and during the funeral the church bells were tolled, and business generally was suspended. The funeral services were conducted by the Rev. D. B. Fitzgerald. The pallbearers were selected from Senator WILSON'S intimate friends in Snow Hill, and were: J. T. Matthews, P. D. Cottingham, Col. John Walter Smith, George W. Purnell, Capt. William E. Timmons, and George S. Richardson.

The services at the church were simple but impressive. While the casket was being borne in, preceded by the Congressional committee, acting as an honorary escort, a quartette of voices rendered beautifully the touching words of a funeral hymn. Rev. William B. Walton, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, read a scriptural lesson, which was followed by prayer and a sermon by the pastor of the church, Rev. D. B. Fitzgerald. The sermon was a forcible and eloquent tribute to the character of Mr. WILSON.

At the conclusion of the services the body was borne through the church to the cemetery adjoining, and laid at rest by the side of his kindred.

ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE SENATE OF THE DEATH OF SENATOR WILSON.

WEDNESDAY, *February 25, 1891.*

The Senate met at 11 o'clock a. m.

Rev. J. G. Butler, D. D., the Chaplain of the Senate, offered the following prayer:

Thou God of all consolation, grant strength and comfort and blessing to Thine handmaiden, and to this family passing through the deep waters of affliction. We thank Thee for this life, so pure, so true, so noble, so useful, so long preserved, fashioned and molded in the faith of Christ.

O, Thou who livest and wast dead, and who art alive forevermore, we rejoice in the hope of the life to come; and we pray that as we walk through these shadows we may have good consciences toward God and toward our neighbor, so guarding ourselves, so walking in the obedience and faith of the gospel, living soberly, righteously, and godly, that when life's labor is ended and life's conflict is done, we may be gathered to the rest that remaineth for Thy people on high.

Sanctify, we pray Thee, this providence; and as we abide under the dark shadow, coming to us time and again, time and again, so quickly, O grant that Thy spirit may speak to our consciences, that we may be quickened in our life toward God and toward the future, toward the life that abideth. Restrain us, and strengthen us, and help us, and bless us, so that living

to God here, serving our fellowmen, adorning the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things, we may be fitted for the home in the heavenly land where they die no more.

Guide these Thy servants this day. Give unto us Thy peace. Are we not Thy children, though compassed about with infirmities? We pray for strength from God. Conscious of our sins, we ask pardon. We look to Thee for wisdom to guide; and O that God may clothe us with might by His spirit in the inner man, so that living a true and pure and manly and Christian life we may serve our generation and falling asleep be gathered to the fathers.

We ask these mercies with guidance, and help, and blessing, and peace, in the name of Chris t our Savior. Amen.

The Journal of yesterday's proceedings was read and approved.

Mr. EDMUNDS. I ask unanimous consent that the business of the Senate be suspended for a few moments until the Senator from Maryland [Mr. Gorman] can be consulted as to what, under the circumstances, may be done out of respect for the memory of our late colleague.

The VICE-PRESIDENT. That course will be pursued if there be no objection. [After a pause.]

Mr. GORMAN. Mr. President, it becomes my most painful duty to announce to the Senate the death of my honored colleague, Hon. EPHRAIM KING WILSON, who breathed his last in this city, at his quarters in the Hamilton House, at five minutes past 10 last night. My late colleague, although not in robust health, was in this Chamber on Saturday last, giving that earnest attention to public business which was the rule of his life. On Sunday last he was indisposed, but none around him supposed it was more than a temporary trouble,

soon to pass away. His death, therefore, comes as a sudden shock, not only to his associates and the country, but to his family.

My lamented friend, however, had for some years anticipated a sudden taking off. He was conscious that he had an affection of the heart which might terminate his career at any moment, and yet, with the courage of a hero, he went on in the discharge of his private and public duties as serenely, as quietly, and as methodically as if he were in robust health.

He had nearly reached the allotted time of three-score years and ten. He was beloved and honored by the people of his State; he had served them in the State legislature, as a Presidential elector, as a member of the House of Representatives, and as an associate justice of the circuit court, and has been twice elected as a member of this body. His career here is familiar to all. We knew him as a man of very high intelligence, a lawyer of acumen and rare logical power, and a gentleman without reproach. He enjoyed the esteem of every member of this body without regard to party. The loss of such a man is a loss to the nation. But in Maryland his death will be specially mourned. The people of that State have lost an upright citizen, an exalted patriot, a true friend, and faithful neighbor. He died as he had lived, a modest, painstaking, Christian man.

Mr. President, at the proper time, I shall ask the Senate to fix a day on which proper tribute may be paid to his memory.

I offer the resolutions which I send to the desk.

The VICE-PRESIDENT. The resolutions will be read.

The Chief Clerk read the resolutions, as follows:

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with great sorrow of the death of the Hon. Ephraim K. Wilson, late a Senator from the State of Maryland.

Resolved, That a committee of nine Senators be appointed by the presiding officer to take order for superintending the funeral of Mr. Wilson.

Resolved, That as a further mark of respect entertained by the Senate for his memory, his remains be removed from Washington to Maryland in charge of the Sergeant-at-Arms, and attended by the committee, who shall have full power to carry this resolution into effect.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate these proceedings to the House of Representatives and invite the House of Representatives to attend the funeral to-morrow, Thursday, and to appoint a committee to act with the committee of the Senate.

Resolved, That as a further mark of respect the Senate do now adjourn.

Mr. SPOONER. Mr. President, when, at another session of Congress, the Senate shall, in obedience to its custom, pause in the transaction of the public business to pay tribute to the memory of our dead colleague and friend, I shall not be a member of this body, and so can not then claim the right and privilege of mingling with your tributes of respect and affection my own. I therefore must beg the indulgence of the Senate on this occasion to pay, albeit only in the faltering and unstudied words of sorrow, a brief personal tribute to the memory of Senator Wilson, of Maryland. He and I entered the Senate upon the same day. He became a member of the Committee on Claims and took his seat with that committee on the same day and at the same hour with me. I have had for years the honor to be its chairman, and he has remained continuously one of its members, and my association with him has, by virtue of that relationship, been, almost from the beginning, intimate, both personally and officially. I was long ago admitted to his confidence, and highly honored as I felt myself to be by his personal friendship, his death brings to me a keen sense of personal loss.

It is not to be expected that justice can be done to his character and attainments in the informal speech of this hour. He was peculiarly modest and unobtrusive, yet possessed in full degree of that spirit and independence essential to true manliness. He had convictions, and the courage to avow and be guided by them. He has not taken very active part in the cur-

rent proceedings of this body. This was attributable in part to the characteristic which I have mentioned, and in part to the fact that for years the specter of death has been ever with him, the unbidden guest at every feast and the companion of every waking hour. But he was able, Mr. President, when duty bade him and when health permitted him, to cope successfully in debate, here or elsewhere, with any antagonist and upon any subject. His naturally strong mind had been disciplined and developed by years of study and reflection, until his mental powers were really great. He was capable of easy and accurate generalization and of ready and acute analysis. He was a man of great learning in the law, and his temperament was essentially judicial. I never knew or was associated with one from whom injustice and harshness of judgment were less to be expected than from him.

He made several reports to the Committee on Claims upon complicated subjects, which for comprehensiveness of treatment, for legal ability, and for literary beauty commanded the instantaneous and unanimous admiration and approbation of the members of that committee, and his judgment as embodied in a report did not in any instance fail to become the judgment of the Senate.

He has made during his term elaborate speeches upon important subjects, and they will afford permanent evidence of his great ability as a constitutional lawyer and of his thorough knowledge of constitutional history.

Mr. President, another thing will be well remembered of him. He was a gentleman of the old school, and his courtesy to all with whom he came in contact, of high or of low degree, was never failing, and was always beautiful. His aspirations were all lofty, and in his public and private life he was a Christian gentleman. His death is a loss to the Senate, to his State, and to the country. It can not be said that he died untimely,

"for death can not come to him untimely who is fit to die," and our friend from Maryland was fit to die.

The VICE-PRESIDENT. The question is on agreeing to the resolutions.

The resolutions were agreed to unanimously.

The VICE-PRESIDENT appointed under the second resolution, as the committee on the part of the Senate to attend the funeral, Mr. Gorman, Mr. Gray, Mr. Jones of Arkansas, Mr. Pasco, Mr. Faulkner, Mr. Spooner, Mr. Wilson of Iowa, Mr. Mitchell, and Mr. Dixon.

The Senate accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 27 minutes a. m.) adjourned until to-morrow, Thursday, February 26, 1891, at 11 o'clock a. m.

ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEATH OF SENATOR WILSON.

FEBRUARY 25, 1891.

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, it becomes my melancholy duty to announce to this House the death of EPHRAIM K. WILSON, late a Senator of the United States from Maryland, who died last night in this city at ten minutes past 10 o'clock. As conspicuous, Mr. Speaker, as has been the Fifty-first Congress in the death of its members, it has suffered no more serious loss than in the death of EPHRAIM K. WILSON, a Senator from Maryland. I knew Senator Wilson well. I enjoyed his confidence and regard through many years. I knew him in all the relations of life—social, professional, and political.

In all of these he more than measured up to all of the requirements of the positions in which those relations placed him. Kindly and courteous to all, dignified yet unostentatious, too gentle in his intercourse to be other than gentlemanly, with a regard for the feelings of others as sensitive as instinct, he moved in and out among his fellows as absolutely the impersonation of the gentleman of the old school as it has ever been my good fortune to observe. As a lawyer he ranked high. He was careful and painstaking in his investigation of every subject which was presented for his consideration; he was always a safe counselor and fearless and eloquent as an advocate. "He despised the artful trickery of ignoble minds," which has been assigned as an attribute of his profession, but ever recognized and taught in his faith and in his practice that there

was an "atmosphere nearer the sun in which the great jurists of twenty generations had lived and dwelt, an atmosphere adorned by a Webster and a Curran, an Erskine and a Grimke," and a host of others standing no less high in the appreciation of the profession.

As a statesman his views were always elevated and broad-gauged. The ends he aimed at were his God's and his country's. He died surrounded by all of the gentle ministries that make life worth the living. Few men in public life have passed from earth away, full of years as well as of honors, as he who has left behind him the record of a life in which there was so little to condemn, to conceal, or to excuse, and so much to commend and to take pattern by. I feel, Mr. Speaker, that the occasion is not proper nor is the opportunity meet for me to indulge in any lengthy eulogy upon the life and the character of my distinguished friend and whilom colleague. Suffice it to say in this connection that I feel that the language of common eulogy would only too poorly express my estimate of his virtues. I send to the Clerk's desk, Mr. Speaker, resolutions which I ask to have read and submitted to the House:

The SPEAKER. Before presenting the resolutions offered by the gentleman from Maryland, the Chair will cause to be read to the House the resolutions of the Senate.

The Senate proceedings were read, as follows:

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
February 25, 1891.

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with great sorrow of the death of the Hon. EPHRAIM K. WILSON, late a Senator from the State of Maryland.

Resolved, That a committee of nine Senators be appointed by the Presiding Officer to take order for superintending the funeral of Mr. WILSON.

Resolved, That as a further mark of respect entertained by the Senate for his memory, his remains be removed from Washington to Maryland in charge of the Sergeant-at-Arms and attended by the committee, who shall have full power to carry this resolution into effect.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate these proceedings to the House of Representatives, and invite the House of Representatives to at-

tend the funeral to-morrow (Thursday), and to appoint a committee to act with the committee of the Senate.

Resolved, That as a further mark of respect the Senate do now adjourn.

In compliance with the foregoing, the Presiding Officer appointed as said committee:

Mr. Gorman, Mr. Gray, Mr. Jones of Arkansas, Mr. Pasco, Mr. Faulkner, Mr. Spooner, Mr. Wilson of Iowa, Mr. Mitchell, and Mr. Dixon.

The SPEAKER. The clerk will now read the resolutions offered by the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. Gibson].

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That the House has received with profound sorrow the intelligence of the death of Senator EPHRAIM K. WILSON, of Maryland.

Resolved, That the Speaker of the House appoint a committee of nine members, to act in conjunction with the committee of the Senate, to make the necessary arrangements and accompany the remains to the place of burial.

Mr. MCCOMAS. Mr. Speaker, the House has but a few days of this session remaining, and they will be busy ones, but I hope that during that time an appropriate occasion may be found, on behalf of the State so greatly honored by Senator WILSON, for members of this House to do honor to his distinguished public services and his blameless life.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The SPEAKER appointed as a committee on the part of the House, Mr. Gibson, Mr. McComas, Mr. Rusk, Mr. Stockbridge, Mr. Stump, Mr. Mudd, Mr. Stone of Missouri, Mr. Browne of Virginia, and Mr. Abbott.

The SPEAKER. The Clerk will read the last resolution offered by the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. Gibson].

The resolution was read, as follows:

Resolved, That as a further mark of respect the House do now adjourn.

The resolution was agreed to; and the House accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 5 minutes p. m.) adjourned until 8 p. m.

EULOGIES IN THE SENATE.

MAY 6, 1892.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The hour of 2 o'clock having arrived, the Senate will proceed to consider the special order, unanimously agreed to be taken up at this hour, on which the Chair recognizes the Senator from Maryland (Mr. GORMAN).

Mr. GORMAN. Mr. President, I offer the resolutions which I send to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The resolutions will be read.

The clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow of the death of Ephraim K. Wilson, late a Senator from the State of Maryland.

Resolved, That as a remark of respect to the memory of the deceased, the business of the Senate be now suspended to enable his associates to pay proper tribute of regard to his high character and distinguished public services.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the adoption of the resolutions offered by the Senator from Maryland.

The resolutions were unanimously agreed to.

ADDRESS OF MR. GORMAN, OF MARYLAND.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Another of those solemn occasions which have so often of late painfully checked the proceedings of the Senate and turned our thoughts from the affairs of public life and the strifes of ambition to the serious future, brings us to-day in the presence of the grave, and makes it our duty to offer tributes of respect to the memory of a former associate, who for nearly six years enjoyed the unbroken confidence and esteem of this body.

My late colleague and friend, EPHRAIM KING WILSON, was born at Snow Hill, Md., December 22, 1821, and died in this city February 24, 1891. He had thus almost completed the period allotted by the Psalmist as the limit of human life, when called to the dread account.

Like most public men who have attained national distinction, he had to struggle against adverse fortune, and to depend mainly on self-exertion for support and advancement. His father, an eminent lawyer, died when this son was a child, bequeathing to him a good name as his only inheritance. He attended school at his birthplace until the age of 15, and then moved to Philadelphia in the hope of pursuing his studies there and of permanently improving his condition.

Without means to attain the first object, he sought employment in a store and remained in that service for a year. The friendly aid of relatives induced him to return home, where he resumed the plan of education originally formed, at the local academies. In 1841, when 20 years old, he graduated with excellent repute at Jefferson College, Pennsylvania.

He taught school for six years in the academies where he had been a prominent pupil, and where his sterling qualities were

greatly valued by the faculties of those institutions. During this time of struggling self-support he studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1848. But in the previous year, the people, who knew the worth of his character and the measure of his intellectual reach, elected him to represent them in the house of delegates as a starting step to his predicted eminence.

For twenty years he practiced law with success in a locality where the professional business was not large, and its rewards were limited as compared with those of the great cities. He served as an elector in 1852 on the Pierce and King ticket, when the Democrats achieved a notable victory over the Whigs of that day.

In 1869 he was chosen school examiner and treasurer of Worcester County, and in 1872 he was elected to the House of Representatives in the Forty-second Congress. Subsequently he became judge of the first judicial district of Maryland, and for six years he won golden opinions for the manner and ability with which that high trust was administered.

On retiring from the bench he was elected to the Senate in 1884, and was reëlected in 1890, but died a week before his second term would have begun.

In these different positions, held from early manhood to the close of a long and honorable career, he always attracted the fullest trust of the people whom he served. Those who knew him best loved him most for the virtues which, early in life, had enlisted their sympathy and won their affection.

He made no claim to be a brilliant orator nor a showy statesman. On the contrary, he shrank from public parade of any kind; was of a retiring nature, and belonged to that valuable order of public men who, in Parliament and in Congress, do so much to shape legislation by wise counsel and temperate action. He was therefore strong in the committee room, where measures

are primarily considered, and where his investigations, judgment, and advice were always treated with deserved deference. His speeches before the Senate were arguments, clear, strong, and convincing, and never failed to give high evidence both of the manly sincerity of his convictions and the excellence of his intellectual ability.

Duty was the guide of his life, as conscience was his mentor. His convictions were strong because they rested on principles that rarely relaxed, and, if at all, only on changed conditions justifying the exception. No Senator was more profoundly impressed than he with the perils involved in the "force bill," nor was any more grateful for the patriotic and generous support from the other side which averted that threatened evil. He would have made any personal sacrifice to recognize their aid on that occasion.

His speech on that bill, treating the subject in its constitutional, legal, and political aspects, was a masterly exposition of every point, and placed him in the front of a debate which will pass into history as among the most memorable and important that ever engaged the best minds of the Senate.

His moral courage was of the highest purity and strength. An incurable malady had long warned him that the sword of the destroyer hung suspended by a hair over his head, and might fall at any unexpected moment. With the firm faith of a true Christian he accepted the doom without a murmur, trusting to the mercy of God, and pursued his paths in private and public life calmly, as if no warning had been given.

My personal acquaintance with Mr. WILSON began twenty years ago, when he became a member of the Forty-second Congress. Residing in different parts of the State, our intercourse was limited until he entered the Senate in 1885. From that time forward, until he was summoned at the bar of Divine Justice, our relations were intimate and cordial, marked by a

perfect reciprocal confidence, and without a jar to disturb an earnest friendship, which will always be preserved among my most cherished recollections.

An exemplary life of stern integrity, of sterling honor, and of sincere devotion to the cause of justice, under all conditions, furnish the noblest epitaph to embalm his memory.

When, in the order of Providence, our time comes to close these earthly scenes and to prepare for the everlasting future, as we all should strive to do, let us indulge the cheering hope of being welcomed, as he deserved to be, with "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Address of Mr. Wilson, of Iowa.

Mr. President: My personal acquaintance with Ephraim King Wilson is limited to the few years of his membership of this body. During that comparatively brief period I came to know him well. Our association was of such character as gave me definite knowledge of the man, and I found him one—

> Who many a noble gift from Heaven possessed.

He was a good man. Can I say more of and for him than these few words express? They embrace all of duty, of conscience, of effort, of mindfulness of others, which evolve that character of human life which stamps with its approval of those lines of Longfellow wherein he says:

> There is no death! what seems so is transition;
> This life of mortal breath
> Is but a suburb of the life elysian,
> Whose portal we call death.

As we now look upon the portal through which our honored and respected associate has gone from us, and recall the char-

acteristics of the life which he passed in the field of mortal activities, we will not doubt that he now participates in joys which abound in the "life elysian."

He served his State and the nation in various public positions. At the early age of 26 years he was elected a member of the Maryland house of delegates. This fact bears testimony of the high esteem in which the community of which he was a member held him. Nor did his official conduct detract from character and volume of that esteem. He served his State in both the legislative and judicial departments of its government. He also served the State and the nation in both branches of Congress. And the members of this body know that he was faithful to his trust and competent to discharge its duties. Conscience and duty were his constant companions. Hand in hand they walked with him. This was as he desired it should be, and their presence rounded out the perfection of the quiet contentment and peaceful satisfaction of his useful life.

This dominant trait in the character of Senator WILSON was not confined to the sphere of his public service. As a member of the community in which his home was situate it was ever present with him. Hence while his standard of personal and private conduct was of a high and exacting order, it was not void of a recognition of the element of weakness so often found in men. He recognized that men whose lives were not wholly in harmony with the standard which measured his own might still have done some deeds and effected some results which would make himself and all others of right tendencies their debtors. In such cases I feel quite sure that he would have been willing to apply the words of Whittier, in respect of Burns, and have said:

> Let those who never erred forget
> His worth, in vain bewailings;
> Sweet soul of song!—I own my debt
> Uncanceled by his failings!

Nor would this have lowered the high character of the standard which he had erected for the regulation of his own conduct. The more probable effect would have been to have drawn the attention of the erring ones to that better rule of life and of action presented by his standard, at the base of which Justice and Mercy joined hands. Many incidents in the life and experiences of our departed associate illustrative of the suggestion I have expressed might be cited, but I will let them rest where he planted them and with an assurance that I may with truth repeat in his case the words of another:

Man's works shall follow him.

In other lines of life than those I have indicated our departed brother gave abundant evidence that he was what I have called him—a good man. His domestic life presents a picture of beauty, love, tranquillity, and happiness upon which we may look and in very truth exclaim: "There is no place like home."

These descriptive words are few in number, but in comprehensive reach they are without limit in respect of all facts and tendencies which carry us toward a realization of the best conditions of society. If they could truthfully be applied to all of the shelters of domestic life in this land, the necessity for the enactment of regulative laws by the nation and of the States would be greatly reduced. That this is not so is not the fault of the man to whose name we do honor to-day. He did his part. In his own case he succeeded. His example and efforts aided many others. He was not selfish. He wished well to all. He worked for what he deemed the good of all. While in some respects his judgment may have failed in its efforts to reach right conclusions, it did not do so in respect of those domestic conditions which constitute home life. It would never have been deemed inappropriate by his neighbors

for them to hear his domestic circle singing that soul-pleasing song, Sweet Home. And it may be truthfully said when that song and the conditions of the home in which it may be sung are in harmony peace and joy therein abound.

It may be said that such homes are effects, and that causes lie behind them. I will not dispute the correctness of this proposition. I prefer to admit that it is true, for the admission opens the door to an inquiry the results of which will support every assertion I have made concerning the life and ways of Senator Wilson. Why was he the kind of man I have described? Trace his life back to the home in which he was born and spent his childhood, and with which his youth and early manhood were connected, and there is found a chain of evidence of unbroken links connecting his sturdy excellence of character as we knew him with surroundings and influences ever present in the home of his parents. They were members of the Presbyterian Church, and religious thougths, methods, and incentives to right action were always active in evolving the correct and admirable traits of character which we know Senator Wilson possessed, and which assured to him the respect and confidence of every member of this body who served with him during the years of his membership here.

The influences which I have named as ever present in the home of his parents failed not in their action upon him. Day by day he felt their ever-present force, and as the passing years moved him on to that period of life when he could appreciate the lessons which they evolved, he appropriated it unto himself as a rule of action, and obeyed it to the close of his life. He came to realize that—

> The great Creator to revere
> Must sure become the creature.

He took to himself the lesson which the conditions of the parental home life taught him with firm resolve:

> Not for to hide it in a hedge,
> Nor for a train attendant;
> But for the glorious privilege
> Of being independent.

To the practicalities and daily routine of his life he applied that lesson, and through all the years and experiences of his temporal journey it assured to him an independence of action which belongs only to those whose motives, actions, and lives are open books for all to read and understand. Such independence always gives happiness to its possessor, who is never weighted down by any secret which he fears may come to the knowledge of others. This character of independence accompanied Senator Wilson from the home of his childhood, where the religious teachings and influences of his parents prepared him for that journey of life which closed in the home of his own family, where like conditions were ever present. All along the journey of his life this element of strength accompanied him. In early home, in school, in private occupations, in the domestic circle, in public station, and in the presence of that messenger who summoned him to enter upon the life elysian this element of strength was ever with him. This proves that by him its presence was ever welcome; that his heart and mind were ever open to it.

Mr. President, we do but perform a duty by according formal recognition to the admirable traits of character ever present in the life of Senator WILSON. Let not our remembrances of him end with this day. We owe it to ourselves as well as to him that this shall not be. The lines of the years which measured his life do also encircle a field of reminiscences where we may gather facts, test principles, study motives, and learn how surely moral forces and religious influences tend to promote

the best interests of the individual, the home, the family, and the community. We may do all of this and not sever contact with the actual facts of his personal experiences in life. And this but proves that all that I have said in respect of the high standard of his character, the facts, methods, influences, and motives which developed and established it, and the results which came to himself and others therefrom constitute but a true story of his life. This being the case, I feel free to earnestly repeat the injunction I have heretofore uttered—let not remembrances of him end with this day. The lessons embraced in the lines of his life may be helpful to all who remain on Time's side of the portal through which he has passed from us to the life elysian. He has gone from us, but the lessons remain with us, and if studied and rightly used will give strength to all who advance toward the portal through which he has passed.

Address of Mr. Berry, of Arkansas.

Mr. Berry: Mr. President, when I came here in March, 1885, I met for the first time Hon. E. K. Wilson, who had a few days before taken his seat in this body as a Senator from the State of Maryland. He was then past the meridian of life, had served in the other House of Congress, and for many years as judge of the court in his State, and was in full possession of strong, vigorous, and well-cultivated intellectual powers. From that time until his death in February, 1891, I sat near him in this Chamber, and learned to know him intimately and well.

I know from the character of the man and from conversations had with him that the idea would have been peculiarly and especially disagreeable to him if he had thought that any Sena-

tor here would after his death overstate, embellish, or exaggerate in any way his abilities, his virtues, or his good qualities. I would not willingly disregard his wishes in this behalf, and yet it is difficult to speak of him as he was without seeming to exaggerate to those who did not know him well. Judge WILSON was peculiarly and in a marked degree a modest man, and I think in his own mind habitually underrated and underestimated his powers and his abilities. He was a man of studious habits, and with strangers retiring in his disposition. He had read and thought much. He knew the history of his own and other countries well. He was an accurate and profound lawyer, and had made a special study of the Constitution of the United States.

He was thoroughly familiar with all of its clauses and sections, with the reasons given by its framers for their adoption, together with the rulings and decisions of the Supreme Court bearing upon each. And the speeches made by him here as to the powers and duties of Congress under the Constitution entitle him to rank with the ablest lawyers of the Senate. There is running through all of these speeches a purity of thought and purpose, a devotion to duty, a love of country, and an earnest desire for the happiness and prosperity of the people that show him to have been a patriot and a true man.

Judge WILSON was not a great leader of men, nor did he desire to be; he was too modest and unassuming for that; he did not possess that aggressiveness, that self-assertion, that inborn desire to control and direct the actions of others that is necessary to successful leadership. And yet the knowledge of men and their conduct, the quick perception of justice, of right and wrong, and firmness in adhering to principle were qualities that he possessed to an unusual degree. I have never known a more thoroughly honest man or a purer man in each and all of his acts, both public and private.

During the six years that I was associated with him I never knew him to do an act that a gentleman ought not to do, or that could justly be the subject of criticism; and when his mind and conscience were convinced that he was right, no persuasion and no influence could swerve or change him from his course. I distinctly remember a conversation I had with him shortly before his death. It was in regard to a bill pending here to which we were both strongly opposed. I asked him, in case it became necessary to defeat it, if he thought we would be justified in withholding our votes for the purpose of breaking a quorum, and he answered me in substance that he regarded the bill as a very bad one; that it would work great injury to the people of the country, and especially to the people of the Southern States; that he was bound to those people by many ties, and especially by the fact that his favorite brother had fallen in battle a soldier in the Southern army, and that there was no personal sacrifice that he would not make to serve them, or to prevent injury to the country in which they lived; but the Constitution required him as a Senator to vote if present, that he had sworn to obey it, and that he dared not violate his oath.

And this, Mr. President, was in keeping with his whole life and the principle upon which he acted in every case. Without any pretense and without parade of superior virtue he did the right as he saw the right. Judge WILSON lived for years in the constant expectation of sudden death; he knew that the disease from which he was suffering was liable to cause his death at any moment; he often spoke of it, not lightly or irreverently, nor in any gloomy or desponding way, but calmly and courageously, as a brave man would speak of something that could not be avoided, and that he was ready to meet without fear of the future, but that he hoped might be postponed for the sake of his wife and daughters, who were dependent upon him, and to whom he was devotedly attached. Judge WILSON

believed in the Christian religion with all the faith and confidence of a little child, or, as he once said, that he had no more doubt of its truth than he had that sooner or later death would come to us all.

Such is a simple statement of the life and character of the deceased Senator as it was impressed upon me. He was the highest and best type of the old-time Southern gentleman—brave, generous, open, direct, and unsuspicious, despising fraud, false pretense, and double dealing of every character, full of charity for the faults and mistakes of others, always respectful and deferential to all womanhood, thoughtful and considerate of the feelings of all with whom he came in contact, devoted to his country, his home, and his family, he lived and died the true gentleman and the true man. As I stood by his deathbed in the presence of his weeping wife and daughter, I could but feel that it was impossible for any man to have been intimately associated with him, without having a higher and better opinion of his fellow-man, and without feeling also that for one who had done his duty so faithfully and well here, it could not be otherwise than well with him hereafter.

Address of Mr. Platt, of Connecticut.

Mr. President: An exacting and somewhat impatient public is at times disposed to criticise the Senate because on occasions when one of our members has deceased we pause for an hour and lay aside the intense work of Senatorial life to recall his virtues and to pay our tribute of respect to his memory. I think the Senate does well to pause. I think it is well at times to forget the intense, practical, utilitarian life which we live and turn our thoughts to other features of life.

"Life" and "death" are the two most momentous words in our language. Their correspondents are the most momentous words in every language. Each is equally a mystery.

Life is a thing of daily experience. From the time when we first know that we live till we pass off the stage we are daily conscious of living. We enjoy life and cling to it. Death is not a matter of human experience. No man has experienced death. We only know that we shrink from it. It seems to me sometimes that these matters of life and death and their issues are of such transcendent importance, are of so much more consequence than the affairs of state, important as they are, that we do not think half enough of them.

I believe, then, it is well for the Senate to pause at times—to let a calm as of the holy Sabbath stillness steal over this room, where there is so much of contention and strife and struggle, that we may think upon what we are and what we are to be.

I can not speak of the deceased Senator from the standpoint of an intimate personal friendship. Indeed, the associations of Senators here seldom result in close and intimate friendships. We all come to the Senate somewhat late in life; the Constitution prevents very young men from entering the Senate, and the ties of close personal friendship are not often formed after the years when men usually enter this body. And yet there is something growing out of our relations, something growing out of daily association in this Chamber, even if we do not see one another in the home, which I think leads us to appreciate a fellow Senator perhaps as much as in the case of intimate personal friendship outside of the Senate Chamber. We come intuitively, as it were, to know each other; and I think in no body in the world does a man pass for what he really is and in no other body is a man so well known by his associates and comrades as here in the Senate.

So I feel to-day that I have a right to speak a word in mem-

ory of the deceased; that I have a right to lay my tribute upon his grave; that I have a right to mingle my voice with the voices of those who were his more intimate personal friends.

He impressed me as being eminently a statesman, a gentleman of the olden time, a gentleman of the universal type, in the best sense of that word—a gentle man, one whose train of thought and expression reminded us of the times past, when this Government was in its infancy—and, sitting here to-day, I have thought that his appearance in the Senate Chamber was very much what we might expect if Samuel Chase and Charles Carroll of Carrollton, who signed the Declaration of Independence, or Luther Martin, who was so conspicuous in the Constitutional Convention, were permitted to come and take their seats in this Chamber.

He was a surviving representative and type of that class of men. He was simple, affable, courteous, dignified in his bearing, as he was faithful, earnest, and patriotic in his character. He was more than that—he was a Christian gentleman; and in these days, when men struggle for fame and position and for what are supposed to be the honors of this earthly life, it is well to remember that there is no honor higher than that of a Christian gentleman. He acted well his part, and we are told that "there all the honor lies."

He has gone from us, and I am sorry to say that when an associate departs from among us or from the walks of life we are apt to ask two questions about the deceased: Was he rich? As the world measures riches, I do not know and I do not care. I know, whether he had pecuniary means and wealth or not, that he was rich in all those qualities of mind and heart which ennoble human nature; and that in that sense he was rich. Was he great? I do not know, because I do not know what constitutes greatness. I do not know by what standard we are to judge men when we call them great. I know that no

man can be honored by a State like Maryland with a seat in this body and be reëlected with unanimity who is not able and strong, and who has not earned in some way the confidence of the people whom he represents.

It is enough for me to know this about him. And I know, too, that it may well satisfy human ambition to be able to represent a State in this Chamber, and to so possess the confidence of one's constituents as to be thus reëlected.

Greatness is often factitious, deceptive; it is often wrought out for men by various means. I know that the deceased Senator never struggled to be esteemed great. I know that he would never make use of any means to parade himself in his State or in the nation as a great man. I know that he had no desire for what is called a national reputation; that he was content if he were known and appreciated within the borders of the State where he was born and where, I have no doubt, he looked forward with pleasure, if one can be pleased with such prospect, to sleeping in its soil. Senators who knew him most fully have said to-day, in our hearing, that he was a good man, a pure man, an honest man. Are not these qualities after all the real essentials of true greatness?

He has left us. One Saturday afternoon, in the busiest and most intense period of our legislation, he left his seat, apparently as well as usual, and apparently with no notice that he was to be summoned away, and on the Tuesday following he was gone.

Has that life which so impressed itself upon us—for his life has impressed itself upon ours—ended? It is said that no man lives for himself, no true man lives entirely in himself, but also in the lives of others with whom he associates and upon whom he impresses his own character. Has that life ended? Hope says no. Faith adds its negative; reason convinces us that it is not ended. So we hope, we believe, and in

the light of revelation we know, that the mortal life which was so developed and rounded out here has now begun its period of immortal development and growth, and that if we are true, as he was true, we may yet meet him, who has but gone away, in that other world where all strife and struggle shall cease, except the strife as to who may best perform the will of the Infinite Master.

Address of Mr. Gray, of Delaware.

Mr. President: I came into this body on the same day with Judge Wilson, and though I had long known him by reputation I had never met him before. Our acquaintance then begun ripened into a friendship which grew stronger with each succeeding year, and continued unbroken until that sad night when I stood beside his dying bed and witnessed through my tears the last expiring sigh which released his chafing spirit and marked the close of his honored and useful life.

It is not for me to dwell at length upon his character as developed in the State in which he lived, and in the atmosphere of home and neighborly surroundings; but it is pleasant for me now to recall that my own State and the eastern shore of Maryland, where Judge Wilson passed his life, are essentially one community. The lower peninsula of Delaware and of the Eastern Shore counties of Maryland and Virginia is geographically unique. Its isolation before the days of modern transportation compelled a business and social intercourse which threw its people upon their own resources and produced a homogeneity of population, interests, and feeling that is largely observable down to the present day. Its people are the de-

scendents of the original English settlers, with little or no foreign admixture since the war of the Revolution. And the sturdy virtues of the original stock have been preserved and strengthened under the opportunities presented by a fertile soil, abundant room, and free institutions.

Nowhere have the best traditions and instincts of the Anglo-Saxon race taken deeper root than in this region, or more conspicuously borne their natural fruit of individual liberty protected by law, and of that developed capacity for self-government which has made possible the distinctive American commonwealth, and which remains the surest safeguard of its perpetuity.

Born of the best of this stock, Judge WILSON, by the inherited tendency of an honorable lineage, molded by such an environment, developed that beautiful and well-rounded character that it is our pride to speak of as typically American.

No truer representative of an intelligent, honest, and noble people ever held commission on this floor. With no alloy of selfishness or self-seeking to mar the fair proportions of his character, he seemed to avoid rather than seek the distinction of public office, and the State that delighted to honor him, whether in high judicial station or as one of its representatives in one branch and the other of the Federal Congress, honored itself in so choosing him. High individual character must always be the most valued product of a free State, and on the other hand no contribution can be made by the citizen to the upbuilding of his State and the well-being of its society more valuable and enduring than the high character himself achieves by the practice of private and civic virtues. This contribution Judge WILSON made in full measure to his State and to the nation.

His was a rare combination of intellectual and moral strength. His opinions on public questions were not hastily

formed, but were the result of careful and painstaking investigation, by a well-disciplined mind, and were vitalized by an earnest moral nature. Judge WILSON thought and reasoned honestly, and a certain intellectual integrity characterized his mental processes and gave an almost religious strength and fervor to his convictions. These he could not compromise, much less surrender.

It is not surprising that such a man should impress himself strongly on those with whom he came in contact. But Judge WILSON had a natural reserve, and was so free from anything like self-exploitation, that only those who became well acquainted with him and were honored with his friendship could fully appreciate the value of his counsel, and the wisdom that characterized his thoughtful utterances. His judgment on public questions was often sought by his party associates, and was freely and fearlessly though withal modestly given. His speeches were always carefully prepared, and were characterized by clearness of thought, logical presentation of the matter in hand, and a sincerity of conviction that was itself persuasive. He never failed to secure respectful attention from the members of this body, as well from those who differed as from those who agreed with him politically.

These speeches as they are preserved in the record of our debates will be an enduring monument to his broad statesmanship, and a valuable contribution to the political thought of our time. But their present effect was due to the high, sincere character that was behind them. Such a character is stronger always than speech. The latter is only one mode of expression of the former; but there are a hundred other ways, often unseen, in which character exerts its potent influence on the thoughts and actions of men. We all felt stronger and safer for Judge WILSON'S presence among us. Low or unworthy conceptions of public

duty could not assert themselves or thrive in the moral atmosphere that surrounded Judge WILSON. He was—

> The still strong man in a blatant land—

so beautifully described in "In Memoriam."

If time permitted it would be pleasant to dwell upon those tender graces of his character which so endeared him to his friends and made friends of so many. The quiet genial smile with which he greeted you, and the genuine courtesy of his manner, were the outward expression of an inward grace; with an unobtrusive consideration for others, and an unaffected suppression of self; with an unvaunted, but always present, through quiet courage, he filled the ideal of a Christian gentleman. Clear in his high office, conscientious in the discharge of every duty, with unclouded mind and unabated Christian fortitude, he calmly awaited the inevitable end that sooner or later must come to all. As we stood by his open grave in the old churchyard at Snow Hill, where we laid him to rest in the soil of the State he loved so well and served so faithfully, the prayer of the Psalmist almost involuntarily rose to our lips, "Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his."

ADDRESS OF MR. MITCHELL, OF OREGON.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I respond with pleasure but in sorrow to the request of the friends of our late colleague to add a word of tribute to his memory.

When EPHRAIM K. WILSON, late a Senator from the State of Maryland, responded to the call of the Great Master, a good man in the broadest sense of that term, an able, efficient, and faithful Senator, passed to his rest.

It is, perhaps, a custom, which would doubtless be "more honored in the breach than the observance," to indulge in exaggerated eulogium on occasions like the present. While desiring to avoid subjecting myself to this criticism, I feel constrained to say it has never been my good fortune to become associated, either in public or private life, with a man more justly entitled to universal esteem, or more lovable in all respects, than was the late Senator WILSON. For six years I had the honor of being associated with him in the performance of the arduous duties of two important committees of the Senate—Claims and Post-Offices and Post-Roads.

The intimate official and personal association which this service together of necessity created, afforded ample opportunity to become thoroughly acquainted with our late colleague in the several capacities of lawyer, judge, legislator, and private gentleman; and thus knowing him, no words of mine can appropriately or adequately express the high esteem with which I came to regard him long ere he was called to pay that greatest of all debts which nature and nature's God exact sooner or later of every individual of the human race.

Senator WILSON was in many respects—yes, I may say in all respects, a model man. Modest and retiring in disposition, courteous and kind in demeanor, he at all times, on all occasions, from all with whom he came in contact, compelled the very highest order of esteem and won universal respect. Firm in his convictions, deliberate in action, conscientious in the discharge of every duty, earnest and able in the advocacy of the right as he understood it, unsparing and even caustic in his denunciation of that which he believed to be wrong, he stood in all these respects a peer among the very best of his associates both within and without the Senate.

Judge WILSON was an able lawyer. There was nothing erratic in his mental make-up. He possessed that rare faculty

of quickly noticing and accurately marking legal distinctions. He had a judicial mind. He readily comprehended and was quick to grasp the nature and scope of a legal proposition, and he seldom failed in accurately defining its boundaries, or in making correct application of the principle involved to the facts of the case in hand. He approached the investigation of a case with the utmost care, with scrupulous exactness, always bringing to bear upon it the most thorough research, and not until he had completely mastered every detail of both fact and law involved was he willing to define his position and rest his judgment. In the performance of official duty, industry, conscientiousness, and thoroughness were with him marked characteristics.

He was not an orator. His speeches in the Senate, while characterized by faultless diction and good literary taste, were not eloquent in phrase, but consisted rather of plain and accurate statements of facts and principles, followed by logical deductions and forceful arguments. His speeches were well calculated to carry conviction by reason of his faultless premises and correct reasoning. They were free, however, from any attempt at embellishment—to please the fancy or excite the imagination with the flowers of rhetoric.

He was a plain man of the older and better type. While in his daily life he was genial, companionable, and unostentatious, he was nevertheless always dignified in bearing, and in his intercourse with his fellow-men all the characteristics of the true Southern gentleman were always manifest. Well grounded in the current literature of the day, he was wholly free from the arts of the pedant.

He was an able and safe committeeman, a wise counselor, an upright judge. As a member of the Committee on Claims, so great was the confidence reposed in him by his associates, both in respect of his legal ability to analyze and develop the

real merits of a claim and of his absolute impartiality as between claimant and the Government, that when he stated his conclusion it was, as a rule, accepted *nem. con.* And to-day if in the investigation of a case in that committee the statement is made that such case had at some prior time been examined and reported upon by the late Senator WILSON of Maryland, his report is immediately procured and his conclusions almost invariably adopted without further debate.

The State he has served so faithfully in the capacity of judge and legislator may in its past history have produced more eminent, more brilliant men, but in those great qualities of moral worth, integrity of purpose, and unflinching fidelity to every public and private trust, no one of them, however eminent, however brilliant, however good or great in all respects, is justly entitled to any more honorable mention or any more prominent place in the history of the State or nation. The captivating eloquence of a Winter Davis, the magic logic and surpassing power of argument of a Reverdy Johnson, may through the pages of history linger with matchless inspiration on the ears of future generations, to charm the fancy and incite the imagination of men; yet from those same historic pages is reflected the record of the genial, modest, noble life of our deceased colleague, which will live in history as one well worthy of imitation—a lesson to instruct, when the mere eloquence of words and the masterly logic of a great mind have lost their potentiality and wasted their power to charm.

In the death of the late Senator WILSON I confess having experienced a personal loss, and in sorrow I submit this brief but imperfect tribute to his memory. What a blessed satisfaction it must be to those who stood in closer relationship, bound to him by tender kindred ties, that the life that has gone out was so completely faultless, so free from all blemish, so pure, so exceptionally good! It is indeed with saddened hearts, moist-

ened eyes, and inexpressible sorrow we take final earthly leave of a loved one as he stands on the brink of that dark and silent river; and when the phantom boat with its muffled oars and unseen sails moves noiselessly out across its measureless waters, bearing such loved one to the hidden shore of that "undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns," the heart grows weary and life seems to us worse than death, and to us to die seems better than to live. But then it is when encompassed by this whirlwind of sorrow that the knowledge of the fact, if fortunately the fact it be, that the record of the life obscured is such an one as marks the career, both public and private, of our late colleague, comes to the rescue, the sun breaks through the rifting clouds and again we think it good to live.

An able lawyer, a faithful, practical, efficient legislator, an upright judge, a modest, unassuming, dignified private gentleman has preceded us in the journey to the tomb. But he has left a monument to his name and fame more enduring than marble shaft and imperishable as the stars—a monument builded by himself. It is the proud, the spotless record of a pure, active, unostentatious, and useful public and private life. Peace to the ashes of the distinguished dead! His life was gentle as a mother's love and pure as the mountain stream. His name will be revered and his virtues treasured in the minds and hearts of his countrymen, but by none with greater devotion and fidelity than those who knew him best.

Address of Mr. Pasco, of Florida.

Mr. President: During the closing hours of the Fifty-first Congress two of our distinguished colleagues departed this life; one, after suffering for months from a lingering and painful disease, which had made his seat long vacant before the final summons came, the other, after a brief illness, previous to which he had been in engaged with his usual assiduity in the daily discharge of his duties in this Chamber. They were both near the border line of the allotted time of man; Senator Hearst had passed over it some six months before, and Senator Wilson would have crossed it before the completion of the year upon which he had entered. The exacting demands of public business so near the close of the session did not permit their surviving colleagues to notice these sad events immediately after their occurrence in the manner established and sanctioned by the time-honored practice of this body, and it has been deferred to the present session to pay the usual tributes to the memories of those whose terms were thus prematurely closed.

My intimacy and association with Senator Wilson during the few years I have been honored with a seat in the Senate justify me in taking a personal part in the exercises of this day, which has been set apart to pay fitting tributes to his memory, and my admiration and regard for him make it a pleasant privilege to speak of his excellent qualities, his many virtues, his recognized ability as a lawyer, his faithful devotion to his duties as a public officer.

When I first came here as a member of this body, more than four years ago, I was assigned to a seat that brought me very near to him. I also found myself associated with him upon one of the hard-working committees of the Senate, and in our

daily association and the frequent discussions and consultations of the committee room we had excellent opportunities of forming correct opinions of one another, and our acquaintance gradually ripened into a mutual friendship.

He enjoyed the advantages of a liberal education, and after graduating at Jefferson College in Pennsylvania he studied and practiced law and for six years was judge of the circuit in which his home was included. His associates upon the Committee on Claims of this body will all bear testimony to the diligence with which he investigated matters committed to him for examination, the readiness with which he discerned the important points of a case, the clearness with which he stated his conclusions, the strength of argument with which he fortified these conclusions in the committee room, and, when it became necessary, on the floor of the Senate. Although one of the older members of the committee he shrank from no labor, he avoided no responsibility, and was seldom absent from the committee room when the time arrived for holding a meeting. And when important legal questions were discussed upon this floor he not infrequently submitted a prepared argument, which included the results of his study and investigation, and his colleagues, who were interested in the subject under discussion, always found it profitable and instructive to listen to his statement of the question and the conclusions he had reached.

The people of Maryland were fond of doing him honor. In addition to his judicial services he represented his county in the house of delegates, his district in the national House of Representatives, his State in the electoral college, and in 1885 he became a member of this body. He had already been elected to serve a second term when his life of usefulness was closed before the new term commenced. In all these official positions he sustained himself well and discharged his duties earnestly, faithfully, conscientiously, successfully.

In this busy world of Congressional life there are many and various fields of usefulness. Opportunities for distinction are afforded to men whose abilities and acquirements are altogether dissimilar and whose previous opportunities and attainments have been widely different. Some have made legislation their profession and are armed and equipped with a thorough knowledge of all its details. During a long experience in public life they have assisted in making history and know the inside as well as the outside workings of the principal events which have transpired within their period of observation and action. Some have spent the best years of their lives upon some particular subject until they have really become experts, and when matters come before us in which those subjects are involved, these specialists are in a position to render invaluable service to the country.

The large majority of our membership, however, in both Houses come from the ordinary walks of life, and most frequently without any special training for the duties to be discharged here. They come from the different professions, from manufacturing interests, agricultural pursuits, mining industries, banking institutions, and other places of industry and activity. But whatever his previous experience a career is open to each. Some have a fondness and capacity for work that is done directly under the eye of the public and very naturally a higher estimate is put upon their services than upon the services of those whose best work is done in shaping the business of the body in the committee room and in the daily social intercourse of Senators with one another.

The brilliant speech is discussed from one end of the country to the other; but the carefully prepared report, which disposes of some great subject and includes the result of weeks of labor, is quietly filed away in the document room after its results have been accepted and acted upon, and in the vast

majority of cases it is never even read publicly before the Senate. But Senators know the great value of work of this sort, and we are better able to appreciate those by whom it is done than those are who only see the results and hear the public debates.

Much of Senator WILSON'S work was done in this quiet, unobtrusive way, though he was ever ready to defend his views and opinions publicly when the occasion required. He always thoroughly mastered his subject, and his opponent could never present a phase of it that he had not studied and considered. But his best work was in preparing for his committee meetings and in his consultations with his associates in the committee room. During the six years of his service he examined many cases and subjects of very great importance, and left the results of his investigations among the printed reports of his committee, where they will remain among our permanent records as silent witnesses of his ability and industry. His mind was eminently judicial, and there was no pride of opinion in him to keep him from modifying his decision, even up to the last moment that he had control of a case, if his researches or the light of the conference room developed new facts or clearer views of the law.

It was in this quiet, unostentatious way that he went on the discharge of his duties here, enjoying the esteem of his associates and the confidence of the people whose interests he represented.

I have stated that death came to him after only a short warning, but the visit was not unexpected. He had been looking for it for many months, and at one time felt so doubtful as to whether he would live to complete his first term that he seriously contemplated whether he should not decline a reëlection. Some improvement in his symptoms, however, caused him to dismiss this idea from his mind; but he used to talk of his

symptoms and premonitions to his associates calmly and evidently without mental disturbance. He felt at times that he could not be sure of a single day and that he might be stricken down at any moment.

But he was prepared for the change, and death had no terrors for him. His daily walk among us attested the sincerity of the religious faith he professed. There was no ostentation about his religion, but during his long life it bore fruit, which proved it to be genuine. He was truthful, kind-hearted, gentle, forbearing, free from malice and ill-will, generous, and just. No one who associated with him could doubt his sincerity. His faith and his works were in entire harmony.

Senator WILSON was born at Snow Hill, on the eastern shore of Maryland. It is the county seat of Worcester County, a quiet little town, apart from the great lines of trade and travel, in the midst of an agricultural country, between the Atlantic and the Chesapeake. Here he grew up, and here his home life was spent among neighbors and family connections, who loved and respected him.

It is in such quiet sections of our country, where there are comparatively few changes in the population, that life is spent most serenely. Men so situated do not hurry through the days of their usefulness in a mad rush for money and power and fame, and decay prematurely, but they grow old gradually, like the ripening grain, and enjoy the autumn of life with its mellowing tints.

I was a member of the committee that accompanied the remains of our departed friend to this peaceful home and saw on every side proofs of the high regard and respect in which he was held by all classes of his people. The coming of the funeral train had been announced by telegraph, and when we reached the section of country where he lived there were groups of people at every little station, white and black, who had col-

lected to hear the particulars of his death and show their respect for "the Judge," as he was familiarly called.

When the burial services were held the morning after we reached Snow Hill, a large part of the population attended the funeral procession to the church where he had worshiped all his days, and the house was filled with an attentive congregation. We saw him laid at rest in the old-fashioned churchyard among the relatives and friends and neighbors who had gone before him to the life beyond.

This was the last of earth to him. But what a grand departure from earth's scenes. What a noble ending of a well-spent life was his. Faithful to every trust, enjoying the love of his family and neighbors, retaining to the last the confidence of the people of Maryland, he laid down life's burdens and cares and entered upon his eternal rest.

Well may the members of his family rejoice rather than sorrow as they contemplate his serene and peaceful and successful life and his happy departure; well may the great State that gave him birth and honored him in his lifetime delight to do honor to his memory.

Address of Mr. Dixon, of Rhode Island.

Mr. President: A custom, grateful in observance and appropriate in ceremony, suspends the daily routine of the Senate, while the individual members of this body cease from labor.

This is not alone because an associate has been taken from his place, not alone because of sorrow, for "the air is full of farewells to the dying," but because a part is wanting of the prescribed means and appliances in the Government; because a break is made in the constitutional construction of the Senate.

By the incident of death, a great State has been deprived of her constitutional representation here.

This, sir, it is that bids us pause while the tribute paid by the affectionate sorrow of those who here were his associates, to the memory of EPHRAIM K. WILSON, points to that place once so familiar to him, recalls that figure once so familiar to us, when day by day as health permitted with unobstrusive dignity he met the duties of his office. He was known in his place in the Senate as an unassuming man of strong intellect, sound judgment, scholarly attainment, careful and thorough in investigation. He did not often take part in debate, yet when he did address the Senate he was heard with deference by his colleagues, for all knew that his words were studied, that his sentiments were expressed after mature deliberation, and free from the bias of partisanship. Although he viewed the great questions of national import and administration in the light of his political affiliation, he would not allow his judgment to be perverted by party considerations nor permit his party allegiance to interfere with the continuance of the business of this body for the purpose of accomplishing a party advantage. Steadfast to his official obligations, constant in his service, his patriotism directed his partisanship.

Learned in the law, his knowledge, guided by a sound judgment, brought him to conclusions in which his associates were apt to coincide when he had expressed the reasoning which led to his decision. Gifted with great mental power, trained by assiduous study, with rare perception, governed by a strict regard to the dictates of conscience in all things, he endeavored to do exact and equal justice.

His familiar friends knew that he was conscious of an infirmity that some day would loose the silver cord and break the pitcher at the fountain. Full well he knew that in his daily life he must avoid excitement, that he must shun the combat and live apart from strife if he would live out many days.

I first met Mr. WILSON at the beginning of the last Congress; we were assigned upon the same committee. In frequent meetings, the singular, almost feminine gentleness of his character, appealed to me; while, perhaps, disparity in years and strength moved him to tell me of himself, and of the care that he had exercised, made necessary by his ailment—an ever-present and impending shadow.

Others, in more fitting diction than I could use, have here recalled Mr. WILSON'S service to his State and country; have told how willingly the people of his State had honored him; of his career while arbitrating their disputes, as judge, and then bestowed the expression of their highest confidence by elevating him to be their Senator. Not once, for he was just about to enter on a second term of service in the Senate when the shadow rested, and in the moment of its resting a change had come, and EPHRAIM K. WILSON had "entered into converse with the mighty dead."

Mr. PRESIDENT, it is difficult to say what is the measure of a man. To the possession of great wealth some ascribe success; in the expression of popular applause some see the culmination of desire; the adulation paid to conquering heroes some think the highest aim of human ambition; while others who recall the day when that place—his place that had been—just across this Chamber was draped with black, while on the outer doorway to this room in heavy folds was hung the emblem of our mourning, the conspicuous tokens that death had entered here, might think that this could measure what he was. But, when the supreme moment comes and fading sight leaves sightless eyes, we do not measure men by such rude scales.

It is the custom when a member of this body dies, that some of his companions, appointed by the presiding officer, shall represent the Senate at the funeral. With others, I performed that service, and journeyed from the Capitol to Mr. WILSON'S

home. A company of mourners—for all were mourners—gathered in and round the church where Mr. WILSON in his life had met in worship with his friends. It seemed as if the whole community had gathered there to do him reverence.

Old men were in that company, whose whitened locks and feeble steps betoken that their separation from their friend would not be long; young men were there, and through their tears looked on the face of him who had been from their youth their counsellor and friend; and children, too, had come in sorrow; and all were mourners; not because a Senator was dead, nor because a leader of the people had passed away, but because their neighbor, their kind, true, noble-hearted friend had passed the "portal we call Death." And when the man of God arose a solemn silence fell upon the congregation, broken only by the preacher's voice as he rehearsed in part the story of Mr. WILSON'S life, spoke of him as a friend, a neighbor, and a man, and bade the youth to emulate the virtues of the man who was their father's friend and theirs; spoke words of comfort to them, and, quoting from the word of him who when on earth had said, "I am the resurrection and the life," told them they should not grieve as those who have no hope. Tenderly the friends of earlier years bore their dead friend into the little churchyard, called in ancient Saxon phrase "God's acre," and there committed his ashes to the earth and his spirit unto Him who gave it.

As we turned to leave that new-made grave, that little "chamber that faces toward the sunrising," I looked into the faces of his mourning friends, old men and young, and each one told how good he was, how gentle and how kind; how he had ministered to the wants of those in need, had sympathized with those who were distressed. The whole community had sought his counsel, and in perplexity had gone to him for aid; and as they told the story, into my mind came that old tale

about the search for that rare face, cut strong, yet kind, against the sky. The rugged rocks set in the mountain side, so massive and so grand, when viewed from one position, show the form and feature of the human face. So it seemed to me, I had viewed him. In his place here, the strong and sturdy mind, set in the structure of the Government; and when I viewed him there, that one position gave a new picture, and I beheld the kindliest, gentlest phase of his whole character. There his greatness only made his character more gentle, there his fame but made his life more kind; and I saw the measure of that man in the sorrow of his friends.

We eulogize the dead, raise monuments to heroes, embalm the memory of statesmen in the archives of the nation. The eulogy is forgotton, the monument crumbles, the archives of nations are obliterated, but such a life as Mr. WILSON lived is a memorial time can not destroy; for "each man makes his own stature, builds himself; virtue alone outbuilds the Pyramids; her monuments shall last when Egypt's fall."

ADDRESS OF MR. GIBSON, OF MARYLAND.

Mr. PRESIDENT: While the arrows of death which flew so thick and fast among the ranks of the Fifty-first Congress robbed the councils of our country of many from other States with whom it was our happy fortune to meet, those of us from the State which I have the honor, in part, to represent are called upon to-day to mourn the loss of a personal friend and colleague.

As a friend lamenting his death, and as a Senator of the United States, among the first and the earliest of my duties in this body, I to-day lay my tribute of respect upon the grave of my honored predecessor, the late Senator EPHRAIM K. WILSON.

Cox, Nutting, and Wilber, of New York; Randall, Kelley, and Watson, of Pennsylvania; Gay, of Louisiana; Laird, of Nebraska; Townshend, of Illinois; Walker, of Missouri, and Phelan, of Tennessee, in the House; while Beck, Wilson, and Hearst, in the Senate, complete the dread list of those who fell victims to the grim reaper death.

As thus conspicuous, Mr. President, as was the Fifty-first Congress in the death of its members, it suffered no more serious loss than in the death of Senator WILSON.

The insatiate archer found no more shining mark than in him.

In the city of Washington, at ten minutes past 10, on Tuesday night, February 24, 1891, Senator WILSON died of heart disease. He sank away without pain.

He was conscious almost to the last. When asked if he suffered any pain his lips moved in answer: "No."

He had for some time had a premonition of death. It seems, in talking to an associate—Senator BERRY of Arkansas—shortly before his death, he remarked: "I have heart disease, and fear it will carry me off like a flash some day."

I entered Congress with him in 1885, he having been elected to the Senate by the preceding legislature, while I had just been elected to my first term in the House. I qualified as a member of the House when Congress first assembled, early in December, but he was unable to take the oath of office as a member of the Senate until the 19th of March following.

His delay in taking his seat in the Senate was due to his desperate illness, from the first attack of what, it seems, he felt himself was to be the fatal malady which would take him off sooner or later.

When he first appeared in the Senate—speaking of himself afterwards with reference to that period—he said: "I have often thought of the startled gesture of surprise my friends made when they first saw me—a pale, thin, haggard man, just

arisen from a bed of dangerous and protracted illness! To me small, then, indeed, did the chances appear that I would live to serve in the Senate as long as I have."

That terrible form of heart disease known as *angina pectoris* had claimed him for its own, and for him there was never more of hope in this world. His friends—myself among the number—did not appreciate this fact; but he knew it, and we now realize that he appreciated it. "He knew that the angel of death had come near him before," and "wondered why he had stayed his dart."

As time drew on he recovered, apparently, his usual good health. His friends felt that the grand climacteric of his life had been reached and successfully passed, and were looking forward for him for a new lease of life of usefulness to his State and country. Alas, how little they knew.

For many weeks and months did he bear with silent solicitude and noble reticence the consciousness of a painful and fatal malady. "The specter of death had been ever with him, the unbidden guest at every feast, and the companion of every waking hour." He walked in the very valley of the shadow of death. And yet all the while he sought to have those about him infer that his eye had not grown dim, and that neither was his natural force abated.

Senator WILSON'S life, from his youth up, was passed 'mid the scenes and associations of that beloved section of the State where he was born. He was never far away from "the brooks by which, in early life, he sported." He lived under the trees his fathers had planted, enjoyed their shade, and was nourished by their fruit.

While his life was not one of vicissitudes, it was not an uneventful one. He was born December 21, 1821, at Snow Hill, Worcester County, on the eastern shore of Maryland, a section of his State he was specially called to represent as a Senator of the United States.

After being admitted to the bar, in 1848, he opened a law office in his native town of Snow Hill. His faithfulness to all the duties of life both public and private, soon brought him clients and a lucrative practice, furnishing him at the same time with passports to universal confidence and esteem.

He practiced law for twenty years, but the altercations of the profession and the excitement of the trial table were not congenial to his tastes, and we find him withdrawing from the bar, and, like Diocletian of old, retiring to the peaceful pursuits of agriculture upon his farm.

Without desiring it, in 1872, he was nominated and elected to Congress, and distinguished himself to an extent rarely attained in one term. Contrary to the practically unanimous demand of his constituents, he declined a renomination, and again retired to the indulgence of quiet taste in farming and literary pursuits. He was not long, however, permitted to remain in retirement.

In the winter of 1878 he was appointed by the governor of Maryland as associate judge to fill an unexpired term. In the following fall he was elected for a term of fifteen years as one of the associate justices of the first judicial circuit of Maryland.

He was elected to the United States Senate in January, 1884, to succeed Senator James B. Groome. His election to the United States Senate came as unexpectedly to him as did his election to the House of Representatives. But the Senate of the United States was to him, after all, the forum of his efforts, and its honorable commendation was the goal of his ambition. On January 15, 1890, he was elected for the term expiring March 4, 1897. Alas, that when his people commended this chalice of exultant satisfaction to his lips he should not be permitted to enjoy it! He never lived to enter upon his second term.

Judge WILSON was twice married. His first wife was Mary Dickerson, of Worcester County, who left him two children, a daughter, Ella, and a son, W. Sidney Wilson. This son was the "apple of his father's eye," a man of magnificent physique, pleasant address, happy social qualities, and of high position in his chosen profession of the law. He represented with honor and distinction his county in the house of delegates of Maryland, and was subsequently elected to the position of prosecuting attorney for his county, a position which he now holds with distinguished success.

In 1869 Judge WILSON married Miss Julia A. Knox, of Snow Hill. Four children blessed that marriage, two sons and two daughters. The sacred and tender relations of Judge WILSON'S domestic life were of the happiest character. In early life he was united to the Presbyterian Church, and he died in the faith of his fathers. Within the sacred precincts of the churchyard of old "Makmie Church," in the restoration of which he took such a leading part, his remains lie buried.

I knew Senator WILSON well. I knew him in all the relations of life—social, professional, and political. In all of these he more than measured up to all the requirements of the positions in which those relations placed him. He was not an aggressive man in any sense. He was not wont to ride forth like a knight full-armed, with couched lance, to strike with pointed steel the shield of his adversary, challenging him to mortal combat, or with mighty mace or battle-ax cleave his way through the ranks of the opposition. He was not "a born leader of men," nor a "fighter" in the sense where blows were to be dealt and felt. He cared not to blaze a path for himself through unbroken forests, but preferred rather to follow where others had led, content to make broader the paths he trod, and smoother and brighter to travel because of his having traveled therein himself.

Yet he was not lacking in force of character. He had strong convictions on all questions of public policy, and had the courage of his convictions. While the tenor of his life was even and noiseless and without the dash and brilliancy that attracts attention, in the Senate of the United States he knew that he would meet with the best minds of his country in his day, and it was his pride not to shrink from contests with such, nor did he fail to measure up to all the requirements of statesmanship that every occasion demanded of him.

He was strong and unswerving in his party faith. As a Democrat, the principles of Jefferson were the rule and guide of his faith and practice, yet he could hardly be called a partisan. His political creed was, "That he serves his party best who serves his country best." As a statesman his views were always elevated and broad-gauged. The ends he aimed at were his God's and his country's.

But it was not in the world of politics that Judge WILSON found a congenial field for the fullest scope of his ability. As a lawyer Judge WILSON ranked high, not perhaps so much as a brilliant advocate as he did as a thorough lawyer. Cautious, painstaking, and laborious in the examination of every question presented to him for his judgment, he was always a safe counsellor and advisor. Yet it can scarcely be said of him that he was fond of his profession; the practice of the law was a business with him, hardly a labor of love.

He accepted public office as a duty, because he felt that his people called him to it, and that they did so because they had confidence in his integrity, intelligence, and industry, and to accept was his duty out of grateful regard for their confidence reposed in him.

It was in his position as a judge on the bench that Judge WILSON found his most congenial surroundings. His was a judicial mind. With a bearing the most dignified, he was

always upright and above suspicion. He held the scales of justice with an even hand.

Judge WILSON typified, to an absolute degree, the exalted chivalry of the profession so grandly portrayed by the eloquent Senator from Indiana (Mr. Voorhees), then a member of the House of Representatives, in his celebrated speech made in February, 1863, in the House of Representatives:

> I belong, sir—

Said the eloquent Senator—

> to a profession which is glorious in history. I rejoice that I have spent some of the days of my manhood in the study of a science in the adornment of which Erskine and Curran, Webster and Grimke spent their lives. The legal profession has had much to bear in the hostile criticisms provoked by an unworthy class who inhabit the vestibule of her temple and allure to their meshes the unwary pilgrims who seek her shrine for substantial relief. The artful trickery of ignoble minds has been assigned as an attribute of the profession of the law and its lower walks. That pestilential brood which swarms around the base of the pedestal of honorable fame has, to the casual observer, sanctioned such a view. But this is all unjust. There is an atmosphere near the sun in which the great jurists of twenty generations dwell; they have been the forerunners of legal liberty. They have never hung upon the skirts of governmental progress.
>
> Other professions have formed technical barricades against the advance of popular freedom, and questioned the divinity of the people; but those who have drunk deep of the fountains of that "perfection of reason," English and American law, recognize the voice of the people as the voice of God. It is a matter of record that the legal profession has been the patient, the toiling, the inspired handmaiden of liberty. I pause, however, to inquire whether my brethren of the law have forgotten the examples of the past; whether the exalted chivalry of the profession is dead? Do you stand by power, or do you stand by the oppressed in destitution? Is your motto the scepter of exaggerated and bloated authority, or is it the farmer at the plow handle, in grand though humble demand for his rights as a free man under the Constitution? The mission of the law, as the chosen apostle of freedom, has always been to succor the oppressed, the feeble, the suffering, and the poor, and to minister, in the spirit of the great Master, to those whom Christ blessed upon the Mount of Olives.

It was in this atmosphere near the sun that lived and dwelt the honored subject of these remarks.

Of his distinguished services to his State and nation in the Senate of the United States it is not necessary that I should add to what my colleague has so well and fittingly recounted. Of his personal traits of character it were small worth for me to speak among those in this Chamber who knew him closely. Kind and courteous to all, dignified and unostentatious, slow to take offense and ready to forgive; too learned in those traits which make the gentleman to be otherwise than gentle; with a delicacy of regard for the feelings of others, and as sensitive as instinct, he moved in and out among his fellows as absolutely the impersonation of a gentleman of the old school as it has ever been my good fortune to observe.

He died surrounded by all the gentle ministries that make life worth living. Few men in public life have passed from earth away whose lives after the last page has been written will bear as close a scrutiny and have so little to hide and excuse, so much to commend, reflect upon, and take pattern by.

I saw him die! I watched his last feeble fleeting breath, and as awed I stood in that chamber of death, amid that awful stillness which is like unto nothing save the stillness of the breast when the spirit hath departed, breathing an inward prayer that "Heaven might rest the soul of my deceased friend," I could not fail to add the heartfelt invocation for myself that I might—

> So live, that when thy summons comes to join,
> The innumerable caravan which moves
> To that mysterious realm, where each shall take
> His chamber in the silent halls of death,
> Thou go not, like the quarry slave at night,
> Scourged to his dungeon, but, sustained and soothed
> By an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave,
> Like him who wraps the drapery of his couch
> About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams.

Mr. President, I ask for the adoption of the resolution which I send to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The resolution will be read.

The Secretary read as follows:

Resolved, That as an additional mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, the Senate do now adjourn.

The resolution was agreed to unanimously; and (at 3 o'clock and 50 minutes p. m.) the Senate adjourned, the adjournment being until Monday, May 9, 1892, at 12 o'clock m.

EULOGIES IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

JULY 2, 1892.

The SPEAKER. The Clerk will now report the special order.

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That Saturday, July 2, beginning at 3 o'clock p. m., will be set apart for the consideration of Senate resolution with reference to the death of Hon. Ephraim K. Wilson, late a Senator from Maryland, and for paying tribute to his memory.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from Maryland [Mr. Page], offers resolutions which the Clerk will now report.

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Hon. Ephraim King Wilson, late a Senator of the United States from the State of Maryland.

Resolved, That as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, and in recognition of his eminent abilities as a distinguished public servant, the House, at the conclusion of these memorial proceedings, shall stand adjourned.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate.

Resolved, That the Clerk be instructed to send a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased.

The SPEAKER. The Clerk will also report the Senate resolutions which are on the Speaker's table.

The Clerk read as follows:

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES, *May 6, 1892.*

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow of the death of Ephraim K. Wilson, late a Senator from the State of Maryland.

Resolved, That as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, the business of the Senate be now suspended, to enable his associates to pay proper tribute of regard to his high character and distinguished public service.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives.

Resolved, That as an additional mark of respect to the memory of the deceased the Senate do now adjourn.

ADDRESS OF MR. PAGE, OF MARYLAND.

Mr. SPEAKER: The certainty of death, despite the evidences of mortality that always confront us, is with the majority of men an unimpressive fact. The "customary suits of solemn black," suggesting as they do the vacant place in many a household, the innumerable fatalities that go so far in making up the daily papers what we call "news," even the funeral cortege, as it wends its way to the place of burial, utterly fail to arrest their serious attention and press home the thought that each in his turn must—

> In the dust be equal made
> With the poor crooked scythe and spade.

Perhaps it is well that it should be so. The path of each one, through whatever domain it may lie, is so beset with sorrows that we are compelled to limit the scope of our sympathies. The vale of tears is wide enough at best. But when the shafts of the dread Archer strike one who is near to us, by association or otherwise; one, perhaps, with whose life, character, and aims we have some acquaintance, we are constrained

to pause awhile amid our pursuits and meditate upon the event. To feel the loss of him with whom we have been associated for days or months or years; to find each day his accustomed place vacant, or filled by another; to know that having fought his fight and won or lost, he is now sleeping his last sleep; these must "give us pause," and bring to us the contemplation of the end that awaits us all. The influences of such a moment turn our minds to the contemplation and study of the thoughts and deeds of him whom we have lost, and thus, while we pay our tribute of respect, we may also extract wholesome lessons of life to our own advantage.

Such possibly are among the reasons which have induced both Houses of Congress, from the earliest days of the Republic, to devote brief periods of their sessions to the review of the life and services of deceased members.

It is, however, not only in the observance of this time-honored custom that I desire to pay my humble tribute to the memory of the late Senator from Maryland, the Hon. EPHRAIM KING WILSON, who died in this city on the 24th day of February, 1891, but to perform a labor of love regarding one of whom I have for many years entertained the highest respect and veneration. During all my adult years I have had the pleasure of his acquaintance and enjoyed the favor of his friendship. For many years I was honored with his intimacy. I knew him well in the retirement of private life; I was a practitioner in his court during the whole period he occupied the bench, and I have spent many agreeable and profitable hours in his society.

While, therefore, the estimate of him which I shall express is formed from a standpoint of a long personal friendship, I can at least defend it by my testimony as a witness to some of the best and most active years of his life.

EPHRAIM KING WILSON was born in the town of Snow Hill,

in Worcester County, in the State of Maryland, on the 22d of December, 1821. He sprang from an ancestry worthy of such a son. His father, who bore the same name, was a most accomplished gentleman, an erudite and skillful lawyer, and noted for the sterling honesty of his character. His memory is still cherished by the people among whom he lived and died as one of the worthies whose names and fame have illumined the history of their native county. His mother, rich in all the virtues of her sex, was the daughter of a no less honored sire. Gen. John Gunby, her father, was a well-known gentleman of his day, who, after a well-spent life, went to his last account honored and mourned by all who knew him.

When Judge WILSON was yet a small boy his father died, leaving a family, consisting of his mother, one sister, and himself, in straitened circumstances. Until 15 years of age he attended school at the academy in Snow Hill. Deeming it then his duty to do something to maintain himself, he became a clerk in a store in Philadelphia. Here he remained a year, when, through the liberality of a relative, he was enabled to further prosecute his education at Washington Academy, an institution located in Somerset County, well and favorably known in its day for the thoroughness of its instruction and the competency of its teachers.

It would be interesting to be able to state what progress he has made. His preceptors, however, are long since dead; and all I have been able to learn (obtained from the only person whom I knew to have been his fellow-pupil) is, that he was a diligent student, quick to acquire and understand, and reckoned to be the "smartest boy" of the school. His progress must have been considerable, however, for through the same liberality which enabled him to attend this school he was provided with the means to matriculate at Jefferson College at Cannonsburg, Pa., where he gradnated in 1840.

Another proof of his progress at Washington Academy is found in the fact that upon his graduation from college he became a teacher of the former institution, remaining there in that capacity for several years. He then taught for about six years in the academy at Snow Hill, thus becoming a teacher in both of the primary schools where he had been educated. It was during this period that he began the study of law, and in the year 1848 was admitted to the bar of his native county.

For about twenty years he practiced his profession with unremitting diligence. His talents, industry, and unswerving integrity soon brought him abundant business. He became a most skillful and learned lawyer.

For many years he shared with the late Judge John R. Franklin, also a very accomplished lawyer, almost the entire business of his bar; and upon Judge Franklin's elevation to the bench, he enjoyed the undisputed position of being without a rival. Both as an adviser and as a pleader he was eminently successful. A habit of patient examination, united to great legal acquirements and a sound and unerring judgment, gave to his opinion almost the force of law; and if perchance his judgment was put to the test in the courts, the result most generally vindicated the confidence reposed in him. At the trial table, however, he won his greatest successes as a lawyer. He was sure to detect the vital points of his case, and passing by the less important matters, he urged these upon court and jury with great effect.

These arduous labors, however, could not fail to make themselves felt at last upon a constitution never robust. It was while he was in the full tide of practice that the first symptoms of that malady which pursued him to the end were first manifested, and in the year 1867 his strength became so impaired that he was compelled to withdraw permanently from the practice of his profession. He retired to his farm near

Snow Hill, in the hope that rest and quiet would restore him again to health. During the period of his activity at the bar he was not only an energetic man of business, but a legal student in every sense of the word. Nothing interested him so much as the investigation of intricate legal questions. He became most skillful in drawing nice distinctions, in discriminating between apparently conflicting opinions, and in reconciling them upon philosophic principles.

The habit of study acquired during this period he maintained to the end of his life. It was then, also, he acquired that critical acquaintance with the organic law of his country, which served him so well in his career in the Senate, where he was called upon frequently to examine and discuss important questions involving constitutional construction. But while he was thus devoted so especially to the duties of his profession (and in the sense of being a seeker for office, by no means a politician), he was, nevertheless, not indifferent to public affairs. From his earliest manhood he was a Democrat of the Jeffersonian type, and deemed it always his duty to promote by his personal efforts and influence the prosperity of that political party. He thus became conspicuous in the councils of the party throughout the State, and in his own county was the acknowledged leader. Yet up to his retirement from the bar, when he was 46 years of age, he had never been induced to accept public office but twice. In 1847 (before his admission to the bar) he represented his county in the legislature of his State, and in 1852 was an elector upon the Pierce and King ticket.

In 1869 he was chosen examiner of the public schools of Worcester County, but on account of the condition of his health he resigned, having continued in that position one year. After three years more of seclusion upon his farm, his health in the meantime having somewhat improved, he was again brought

from his retirement by being nominated and elected to the House of Representatives in the Forty-third Congress. After serving with great credit to himself to the end of his term, he declined the renomination which was conceded him, and again sought the quiet of his rural home, where he remained until the winter of 1878, when he was appointed by the governor of Maryland a judge of the circuit court of the first judicial district of Maryland. At the ensuing election he was elected by the people a judge of that court for a term of fifteen years.

In speaking of him as a judge, I may as well repeat what has been said of him elsewhere, namely: "He won golden opinions for the manner and ability with which the high trust was administered." That this is literally true I can testify from my own personal knowledge. His manner on the bench, while thoroughly dignified, was also exceedingly kind and courteous. His temper was equable and bland. To the younger members of the bar he was indulgent and considerate, and to the older respectful and patient. Yet there was no element of weakness in anything he said or did. No judge ever maintained the proprieties of his court with more firmness than he. His mind was eminently judicial; no pride of opinion interfered with his calm and impartial search for truth. He was swerved neither by fear, favor, nor affection.

The humblest suitor in his court was as sure of justice as the most powerful. He held the scales of justice with absolute fairness. The numerous opinions now spread on the records attest the conspicuous and conscientious ability with which he discharged his duties. These opinions exhibit the most painstaking industry and care in the search for authority and in the very elaborate and satisfactory reasonings by which he sustained his conclusions. These are the facts that won for him "golden opinions." They have embalmed his memory in the minds and hearts of his judicial associates and of all who were

before him as practitioners or suitors. They entitle him to take rank among the greatest of Maryland's *nisi prius* judges. They crown him with the just glory of having fully maintained the high character that has always attached to the judiciary of his State of having kept pure and unspotted the ermine with which he was invested, and they will forever keep his memory sweet in the minds of all who are familiar with his judicial career.

While still occupying his place on the bench, in January, 1884, he was elected to the Senate of the United States. This new honor, one of the highest, if not the highest, a State can confer on one of its citizens, came to him as an unsought expression of the public appreciation of his talents and honesty. When I review at this hour the circumstances which brought about his election I am able to recall no other cause for his selection to that responsible position than the general opinion of his eminent fitness for the place. He accepted it with a deep sense of anxiety lest his physical condition should prevent him from efficiently discharging its duties.

The same malady, which had first become manifest while he was at the bar, still kept him in constant anticipation of a paroxysm more severe than usual that would either disable or destroy him. It was with this dread shadow, almost of death itself, and at times fearfully real by actual pain and suffering, constantly upon him, that he passed through his entire service in the Senate. Those who observed his retiring habits in the Senate, how he kept himself from scenes of excitement, how he forebore from participating in the heats of extemporaneous debate, little knew of the dreadful disease that was sapping his life, compelling him to check (though it could not destroy) that restless energy that had made him for the first half of his adult life one of the most energetic of human beings.

To me it seems marvelous that under these circumstances

he could have accomplished what he did. His brother Senators have borne ample testimony to the faithfulness and ability of his Senatorial services. Says one:

> He always thoroughly mastered his subject, and his opponent could never present a phase of it he had not studied and considered. But his best work was in preparing for his committee meetings—he examined many cases and subjects of very great importance, and left the results of his investigations among the printed reports of his committee, where they will remain among our permanent records as silent witnesses of his industry and ability.

Of him another Senator has said:

> He was known in his place in the Senate as an unassuming man of strong intellect, sound judgment, scholarly attainment, careful and thorough in investigation. Gifted with great mental powers, trained by assiduous study, with rare perception, governed by a strict regard for the dictates of conscience in all things, he endeavored to do exact and equal justice.

Yet another of his associates thus speaks of him as a Senator:

> No truer representative of an intelligent, honest, and noble people ever held commission on this floor. His was a rare combination of intellectual and moral strength. His opinions on public questions were not hastily formed, but were the result of careful and painstaking investigation, by a well-disciplined mind, and well vitalized by an earnest moral nature. He thought and reasoned honestly. His judgment on public questions was often sought by his party associates and was freely and fearlessly though modestly given. His speeches were always carefully prepared and were characterized by clearness of thought, logical presentation of the matter in hand, and a sincerity of conviction that was itself persuasive. These speeches, as they are preserved in the record of our debate, will be an enduring monument to his broad statesmanship and a valuable contribution to the political thought of our time.

I cite these passages for two reasons—first, because they are the unbiased opinions of able and distinguished gentlemen, given with a full knowledge of the facts, and therefore of the utmost value; and, second, because they are adequate expressions of my own estimate of the value of his Senatorial services.

An examination of the record will show the wide range of subjects he discussed on the floor of the Senate. The bill

known as the Blair educational bill, the relations between the President and the Senate, the tariff, the fisheries, and the election law, commonly referred to as the "force bill," were the subjects of many of his speeches.

No one can peruse them without being impressed with his ability and his deep love of his country and its institutions. He believed that the Constitution was the sheet anchor of our liberties, and all through these speeches, in one form or another, the idea is presented and enforced that there "is no safety to our institutions but in confining both the General Government and the States within their legitimate powers and duties, both as to appropriations and legislation." He resisted with all the force of his mind any proposed infringement upon these principles. The "force bill," he thought, was a most dangerous measure, fraught with evil to the whole country, and his speech on the subject, stimulated as he then was to the importance of the occasion, exhibits his powers and his patriotism in their fullest development. This was his last effort and it was his ablest. A little more than sixty days after he had passed away; was it indeed that—

> Stronger by weakness wiser men become
> As they draw near to their eternal home!

In January, 1890, he was elected to a second term. I remember conversing with him a few weeks after his reëlection. He seemed full of dark forebodings for the future. He expressed great doubts if he had done wisely in permitting his name to go before the legislature for reëlection. He said: "I do not think I can live my term out, and is it right to accept under such circumstances?" His sensitive nature shrank from accepting any position without feeling assured that he would be able to discharge its duties to the end. It was the last time I ever saw him. On the 24th of February, 1891, came the par-

oxysm he had so long expected, and on that day, surrounded by his friends and his family, he sank peacefully to rest.

But death had not caught him unawares. For many years he had been preparing for the end that came that day. Always a firm believer in the truths of Christianity, he had, in the prime of life, united with the Presbyterian Church, in which he afterwards became a ruling elder, and his walk and conversation to the end of life proved the sincerity of his purpose and the depth of his convictions. For years he had looked death in the face; realized, as only one with an incurable malady can realize, that it might at any moment come, and when the hour struck he was ready to accept it with an unfaltering trust in the blessed promises of his Lord and Master.

I can not conclude this humble tribute without a word as to his private life. Here, as elsewhere, the dominant feature of his character was his conscientious devotion to duty. I think I never saw a more conscientious man. On the bench, in Congress, and in private life he was scrupulous, diligent, and painstaking in the extreme to discharge fully and completely every duty. "To him was life a simple act of duties to be done." He not only acted honestly, but thought honestly. No kind of inducement ever swerved him a hair's breadth from what his conscience told him was right. In society he was always affable and pleasant. No one ever enjoyed a joke more than he, and he was as fond of hearing them as of telling them himself. He was possessed of a singularly bright and cheerful disposition. Always he had a pleasant word for friend or acquaintance. Of him it was indeed said:

> Truth, simple truth was written on his face,
> Yet while the serious thought his soul approved,
> Cheerfulness he seemed, and gentleness he loved.

He was kind, charitable, and generous. Many a public enterprise in this community and many of the poor have already felt the loss of his thoughtful liberality.

He was twice married. Of the first marriage two children, a son, W. Sidney Wilson a promising member of the bar, and a daughter, survive. In 1869, he married his second wife, Miss Julia Knox, of Snow Hill, who, with her four children, also survive him. It was in the quiet of domestic life, in the bosom of his family, that he shone brightest. He loved his home with an intensity that neither pleasure nor fame nor honors could abate. There his presence was like sunshine; it always made home warmer and brighter. He won by his own tender and affectionate kindness the love that was lavished upon him by wife and children. In the retirement of the domestic circle he ceased to be the judge and the Senator: he was only the husband and the father, guiding those about him by his wisdom, but entering into all their employments with sympathy, and cheering them with the brightness of his own sunny nature.

And now he is no more. The gentle friend, the loving husband and father, the patriotic citizen, the just judge, the able and incorruptible Senator, the pure Christian has passed from earth to the better land beyond the stars. But he has left those who come after him a noble legacy of high thoughts and noble deeds. These shall live after him, and shall tend to make the world purer and better.

Happy is he of whom, after he is gone, this can be said with truth, and happy the people who are jealous to preserve the memorials of such a life as an example and an inspiration to all their citizens, and particularly to the youth of the land.

Address of Mr. Herbert, of Alabama.

Mr. Speaker: Truth and honor are to ability a passport to success.

Senator Ephraim K. Wilson, whose honored name is one of the many that suggests the thought, ended more than a year ago a life the memory of whose beauty and integrity the fleeting years will not efface. He was said to be in his young days a man of unusual and remarkable energy, as the fact of his career would easily lead one to believe. Overexertion in youth brought on ill-health, and this compelled him to a less active use of the wonderfully judicial mind that nature had fitted him with and that years of study and varied reading had ripened into that of a scholar.

To begin with, his capital was a stout heart, a steady head, a willing hand, and an empty purse.

To begin with, "the elements were well mixed in him."

His father, though an able and well-known lawyer, had been able financially to give him a college education and nothing more. He had his own way to make and he made it. He began life as a clerk in a Philadelphia store, and afterwards for seven years taught school, studying law at the same time. He was an exhaustive student, and when admitted to the bar his thorough knowledge soon told. There is always need and a place for such a man as he.

The people of his State conferred upon him one honor and another. It is said that he never sought a public office, believing that the office should seek the man. He served a term in the legislature of his State, was an elector on the Pierce and King ticket, school examiner of his county, was elected to the

Forty-sixth Congress, declining to run a second time, and in 1878 was appointed associate judge of the circuit court of the first judicial circuit of Maryland, an office which he held when first elected United States Senator. He died before the beginning of his second Senatorial term. It is said in Maryland that the people had never greater confidence in the impartiality of the judicial opinion of any judge than in that of Senator Wilson while on the bench.

His speeches abounded in classical and historical allusions, apt and natural. His imagery was effective; his sentences rounded and sonorous. He made a lawyer's statement and a judge's summing up of his views. He deliberated carefully, but having reached a conclusion, he announced it boldly and maintained it with zeal. A thorough Democrat, he had a Democrat's high estimate of the "uncrowned queen, public opinion." Jealous of the honor that should be deserved by his colleagues in public office, he says, speaking in favor of a bill preventing members of Congress from acting as attorney for any railway company receiving aid from the Government:

> The bill will teach members of Congress that the people expect them not only to be pure, but free from the suspicion of corruption.

In these simple words he set forth the lesson his whole life teaches.

He was conscientous, painstaking, and thorough. In private his manner was affable, dignified, open-hearted, and finished. America may well be proud that this quiet gentleman, who held his course, did his duty, asked favors of no man, so cultured in mind and heart, was one of her statesmen, and be most willing to say, in pointing to the ruling principle of his well-spent life—

> The soul that can be honest is the only perfect man.

ADDRESS OF MR. MCKAIG, OF MARYLAND.

Mr. SPEAKER: It has been rightly said that "some men seem to be sent into the world for the purpose of action only," for their faculties are all strung up to toil and enterprise, and their spirits and their frames are alike redolent of energy. They pause and slumber like other men, but it is only to recruit from actual fatigue; they occasionally want quiet, but only as a refreshment to prepare them for renewed exertion, not as a normal condition to be wished for or enjoyed for itself. They need not rest, not repose. They think, they never meditate, and their mission, their enjoyment, the object and condition of their existence is work; they could not exist here without it.

There are others who skim over the surface of life, reflecting just as little as these and not reposing much oftener; whose sensibilities are quick, whose temperaments are cheerful, whose frames are naturally active but not laborious; on whom nature and the external world play as on a stringed instrument, sometimes drawing out sweet sounds, sometimes discordant ones; but whom the inner world seldom troubles with any intimation of its existence, men whom the interests of the day suffice to occupy; the depths of whose souls are never irradiated by gleams or stirred by breezes from a "remoter life."

The third type are the spirits whom God has cast in a different mold, or framed of less harmonious substance; men gifted with that contemplative faculty which is a blessing or a curse, according as it is linked with a cheerful or a melancholy temperament, according as it is content to busy itself only with derivatives and secondary matter, or dives down to the hidden foundation of things; according as it can wander

happily and curiously among the flowers and fruits of the Tree of Life, or as it is dangerously impelled to dig about its roots and analyze the soil in which it grows, seeking whence it came and whither it is bound—

> The hills where its life rose
> And the sea to which it goes.

The spirit of the late distinguished Senator, E. K. WILSON, from Maryland, was thoroughly imbued with the contemplative faculty linked with a cheerful temperament; so brilliantly described by the gifted author quoted from, a faculty that enabled him to wander happily and curiously among the flower and fruit of the "Tree of Life," and a temperament that brought him the fullest fruition of life's affections and sympathies in the strong personal attachments felt for him by the citizens who enjoyed the honor of his acquaintance both in private and public life—his name among them being a synonym of integrity, reliability, and judicial and political incorruptibility.

Mr. Speaker, early in the race of life fortune had selected him as one of her favorites, but this was supplemented by earnest, unrelaxing zeal in his life work, that gave merit its reward and established for him a character for fair dealing, legitimate and honest in every sense of the word, and a sound and reliable judgment. There was nothing vacillating in his character; he was controlled by no varying currents of sentiment impelling him hither and thither, but his plans and purposes, maturely considered, were carried out to a successful termination with a spirit that evinced the strong, self-reliant man.

Born as he was at Snow Hill, Md., December 22, 1821, without the advantages of wealth and power, he steadily climbed the ladder of life with an eye single to self-respecting honesty

until he died a Senator of the United States in Washington City, February 24, 1891, full of honor, just finishing a Senatorial term and about to commence another by the unanimous selection of the legislature of his native State, that he loved so dearly and honored so much by his wise and statesmanlike representation, thus portraying the vast and limitless possibilities of American manhood. He had thus, as the senior Senator of the State said, "almost completed the period allotted by the Psalmist as the limit of human life" when he fell asleep in Jesus.

> Of all the thoughts of God that are
> Borne inward unto souls afar,
> Along the Psalmist's music deep,
> Now tell me if there any is,
> For gift or grace surpassing this:
> "He giveth His beloved sleep."

Why trace his onward, upward career as he steadily passed each milepost of his life, filling worthily and competently the various stations he was called to by his constantly extending circle of friends from mercantile pursuits to bar, bench, and Senate Chamber, leaving the impress of his genius upon the positions held and giving evidence of the rare combination of moral and intellectual strength that constituted him a marked man among his fellow-citizens. The results of his work at the bar, on the bench, and in the Senate Chamber gave ample testimony of the careful and mature consideration applied to every branch of his life work and makes it an achievement that might well serve as a shining example to the aspiring youth of our land as they seek to enter public life.

Mr. Speaker, my personal acquaintance with the late distinguished Senator was limited and wholly formal in character, yet such was the strong personality of the gifted gentleman, penetrating as it did every section of his native State, carrying with it the knowledge of his rare worth, that he was known

and appreciated among the people of Western Maryland, though a comparative stranger, as highly as those sections favored by his occasional presence.

The genial nature and strong social disposition of the late Senator was in keeping with the section of the State in which he lived, and of the proverbial hospitality of whose citizens he was one of the noblest and truest exponents. Like many of our distinguished public men who have died with the representative harness upon them, his end was quick and comparatively painless.

No tedious confinement marked the approach of relentless death. The silver cord simply parted, and as he passed into the Valley of the Shadow of Death, he could have murmured in the words of the poet:

> Life! we've been long together,
> Through pleasant and through cloudy weather;
> 'Tis hard to part when friends are dear;
> Perhaps 'twill cost a sigh, a tear;
> Then steal away, give little warning,
> Choose thine own time;
> Say not good night, but in some happier clime
> Bid me good morning.

Address of Mr. Joseph D. Taylor, of Ohio.

Mr. Speaker: In response to the request of the members of the House from the State of Maryland, I have the opportunity and the honor of taking some part in paying a deserved tribute of respect to the memory of an honored Senator and a distinguished man, the late Ephraim K. Wilson, a United States Senator from the State of Maryland.

The only personal acquaintance I had with Senator Wilson began and ended in the Hotel Hamilton, in this city, where we

both boarded, and where he died, on the 24th of February, 1891, at the ripe old age of almost threescore years and ten. Of course I knew him as a Senator from Maryland and as a man of the highest character, but this embraces the only personal acquaintance that I had with him.

I remember the shadow and the sorrow that came into that hotel when the serious illness of Senator WILSON was first known. Every heart was full of sympathy for him and his family. My wife was with his family very frequently during his illness, to render any assistance that she could, and was with them when he died.

The frequency of death never seems to soften the shock or diminish the startling character of the announcement, especially when it occurs under the roof which shelters us, or in the home in which we are living, and in this case the sad whisper went from room to room like a flash, and every heart in that hotel was touched as with a personal sorrow. Death comes so near under such circumstances that we realize how frail our hold is on this human life of ours.

A man like Senator WILSON would naturally attract attention and be the subject of frequent comment in a public house where there were many other public men with their families and friends, and I venture the assertion that there was never heard in that hotel an unfavorable comment on Senator WILSON. His appearance, his manner, and his modesty gave him easy access to all who met him, and he needed no one to say that he was an honest, dignified gentleman, for that was written on his face and corroborated by every act that he did and by every word that he uttered. I remember the discussions of his character and courage when he voted against the free-coinage bill, and the admiration expressed for his independence on all hands, and I then learned what sort of man he was, and I have since learned that he was always that kind of a

man; that it had been his practice through life to do his duty honestly and conscientiously, no matter what others thought or did.

The address of the gentleman from Maryland (MR. PAGE), to which we have listened, emphasized by other speakers, is a great tribute to a great man. No monument could be built higher, no memory could be burnished brighter. The panorama of Senator WILSON'S life which has been spread out before us in these addresses this afternoon will live longer than granite or marble or brass can possibly endure. The fame of a good man who distinguished himself at the bar, on the bench, in the House, in the Senate, in the church, and in the home, in public and private life, ought to endure longer than shafts of granite or marble or brass. The world is better because of the life of such a man. These influences which he exerted, these examples which his life has furnished, will bear fruit in time and in eternity. There is a greatness in a well-rounded human life that overshadows all other earthly honors, no matter how brilliant.

And it is well, Mr. Speaker, that in these days when we have so much crimination and recrimination, so much perfidy and infamy, so much that is degrading and demoralizing, that we can turn to examples of purity and integrity in public life, and declare to the world that such men are possible even in this day. In saying this, however, I do not mean to say that the number of such men is growing less. On the contrary, I believe that the public service was never purer than it is to-day, and the way to make public men pure is to encourage the dissemination of noble characteristics and punish the wrongs of evil doers in public places.

I am glad, Mr. Speaker, to have an opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the life and character of Senator WILSON. I am proud of a country that produces such men. I

honor a flag beneath whose folds a man can start at the bottom of life's rugged ladder and climb to the top. In European countries a man can never rise above the stratum of society in which he is born, but in this country the barefooted orphan can scale every obstacle and reach any eminence. As we have heard, Senator WILSON was a self-made man; starting in the world without fortune or influence he made great progress and gained great distinction. I admire his character as a lawyer; I admire his character as a judge; I admire his character as a member of Congress, but I admire more than all this his character as a man. I appreciate what he did for the State in which he was born and in which he is buried; I appreciate what he did for the country on the bench and in the councils of the nation, but I appreciate more what he did for the home and the purity of private life.

I wish we had more such men. The State of Maryland did a noble act in electing and in reëlecting Senator WILSON, and I honor the people of that great State for selecting such a man for such a place. The recognition of such men for public places will exert a healthful influence upon the young men of the country, and go a great way toward giving the people honest and trustworthy public officials.

Mr. Speaker, these tributes of respect seem strange in this Hall, where conflicts and controversies seem even now to echo from these walls. The silence of this hour seems so in contrast with the noisy scenes we witness here from day to day that I am almost shocked at this sublime stillness. But again and again death enters the chamber and bears his victim. The laws we make here can be amended or repealed, but the inexorable law of death is incapable of change or modification. It belongs to every age and clime, enters alike the hovel and the palace, knows no distinctions or exceptions, and we can only bow submission to its stern decrees. There is one way and

only one way to meet the dreaded foe. In all the ages no other has been discovered. It is to be ready, because in such an hour as we think not the messenger cometh. Again and again he has entered this Hall during this session, and the lesson that rings out is that we should be ready. In the midst of life we are in death.

In the awful presence of death, earth and its honors, life and its emoluments, sink into utter insignificance. Time and eternity are the only rocks which seem uncovered in the presence of such a wave. The one thought that comes to me here and now, in the midst of these words of eulogy, is this: If Senator WILSON could recross the shadowy river and speak to us from his own lips, what would he say? Would he talk of tolls or tariffs; of trade or traffic; of currency or revenue? Or would he point to those great principles of moral courage and eternal justice, which are higher than men or measures, greater than states or nations, which belong to the present as well as the future, which pertain to the life that now is and the life that is to come? But we do not need even this. His whole life speaks to us. The influences which linger around his pathway are full of lessons. The church where he worshipped, the neighborhood where he lived, his public and private career, all signify the wisdom of a well-spent life.

ADDRESS OF MR. TRACEY, OF NEW YORK.

Mr. SPEAKER: My acquaintance with the late Senator WILSON was confined entirely to our meetings in the Senate Chamber. Soon after arriving in Washington and entering upon my duties as a member of the House, I had occasion to call upon him and request his aid in a matter of legislation in which I took

an interest, and the impression he then made upon me was one which I shall never forget. His manner was so kind and courteous that I was encouraged in the efforts that I was making to procure the legislation to which I have referred, and those who were directly interested in it—people of moderate means, living in this neighborhood—came to me later and expressed their great feeling of gratitude for the kindness he had displayed toward them.

So it happened that time and again when I had business with the Senate I felt that in Senator WILSON I had a friend whom I could always approach and by whom I should always be received with courtesy. A few days before his death—indeed, I think it was the last day he was in the Senate—I had occasion to ask his attention to a matter affecting a person in humble life, a small private bill for the poor widow of a soldier, and although the Senator was busy with his official duties, he immediately left his seat in the Senate Chamber and came with me down stairs into the committee room to look after the matter.

From there I went with him to the staircase, where he stood, and we had some conversation. He spoke of his impaired health, and remarked how necessary it was for him to be careful. Within two days from that time it happened that I was taken down with illness, and the day Senator WILSON died the doctor came from his bedside to attend mé, so that I had reason to be peculiarly impressed and shocked when I heard of his death.

On several occasions, when I had the honor of conversing with Senator WILSON upon matters of business, he entered into brief discussions of the public questions that were then before Congress, and I was greatly impressed with the sincerity and earnestness which he exhibited. It was quite evident to me that in sound Democratic principles he was thor-

oughly well grounded, and that in his action upon public questions he was governed by the highest and most patriotic motives. On one of the occasions to which I have referred there was a financial measure pending before Congress in which he took a deep interest and in respect to which he was inclined to cast his vote in a way that was likely to disappoint some of his colleagues for whom he had a high regard, but he did not hesitate.

In speaking of the subject, he said to me that he felt it his duty to act in the manner in which he did act, and I saw that he had promptly decided to pursue what he felt to be the proper course.

The manner of Senator WILSON, as those who knew him will remember, was exceedingly modest. If he suffered in any respect in the estimation of the people with whom he came in contact, it was due to this humility of demeanor; but anyone who was brought into direct intercourse with him realized in a very short time the high motives which governed his actions, and the elevation of his mind and character.

Mr. Speaker, I was not regularly assigned a place on the list of those who were to speak on this occasion; but remembering that we were to devote a portion of this day to commemorating the character and services of Senator WILSON, I asked the privilege of testifying in this brief and informal manner my deep sense of obligation to him and my high appreciation of his greatness as a legislator and as a true American gentleman.

Address of Mr. Rusk, of Maryland.

Mr. Speaker: As a member of the Maryland senate in 1882 I cast my vote for the late Hon. E. K. Wilson upon his election to the Senate of the United States; as a member of the House of Representatives I attended with its committee his funeral services, and accompanied the remains of our deceased friend to their last resting place in the churchyard of old "Makmie Church;" there in the chilling blast of winter, surrounded by the hundreds who had known and loved him for so many years, in the beautiful little town of Snow Hill, between the bay and ocean, under the very shadows of the ancient church in which he and his fathers had worshipped, we paid the last tributes of respect to this kindly gentleman, learned lawyer, and patriotic citizen and statesman.

My own acquaintance with Senator Wilson commenced with his election to the Senate. I had known of him in former years as an able lawyer, upright and learned judge, and diligent member of Congress, but it was only upon a closer acquaintance with him that I really learned what manner of man he was; how kind and attentive to all who approached him; how earnest and devoted in the performance of his duty; how scrupulously exact in the examination of matters laid before him in the performance of his duty as Senator. I was amazed at the time and thought given by him even to matters in which perhaps no one but some obscure claimant against the Government might be interested. Yet he examined proofs and weighed evidence in such matters with the same judicial fairness which characterized his actions when on the bench, and his conclusions when reached were so firmly hedged about with fact and law that no one would think of going behind a report pre-

pared by him. His carefulness in these less important matters did not indicate that he was a man of mere detail and given only to the consideration of small things. On the contrary, while he approached the consideration of great questions affecting the welfare of the nation with the same care, yet his intellect grasped with equal force the most intricate questions.

He had been a close student of our institutions, was thoroughly drilled in political history, and a master of constitutional law, and with these prerequisites of statesmanship, he brought to the consideration of all questions, his calm judicial temperament, great erudition and profound love of country. It seems strange to us that this superbly equipped man, this loving father and husband, this patriotic citizen, doing so much good for his people and his country, should be cut off in the height of his usefulness, when his years of toil and study were bearing full fruition, but to him it seemed well, and he dreaded not the approach of death. He had faithfully done his work, had developed the faculties given him, had remembered his Creator in the days of his youth, and unto the last days of his busy life, and was prepared for the great mysterious change which comes to all.

His memory is embalmed in the hearts of loving friends. His State has placed his name among those of other great and good men whose deeds adorn its annals. The Congress of the United States has placed on record its appreciation and admiration of the man and statesman, and his life's history being written, we leave him at rest.

> Another hope which purifies our race,
> That, when that fearful bourne forever past,
> They may find rest—and rest so long to last.

Address of Mr. Cummings, of New York.

Mr. Speaker: Maryland has been singularly fortunate in the selection of the men she has sent to speak and act for her in the Senate of the United States. She is not a large State, sir, but she has chosen to be represented by large men. From the day when she sent Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, to represent her in the council of the States down to the present time the Senators from Maryland have generally been unsurpassed in ability, character, and influence. William Pinkney, the great orator, jurist, and statesman, in his day the leader of the American bar, enhanced his own fame and the glory of his native State as a Senator from Maryland.

At a later day, in our own time, another great son of Maryland, hardly less distinguished as a lawyer and statesman, Reverdy Johnson, maintained her prestige in the Senate of the United States. But, Mr. Speaker, without stopping to call the names of all the eminent men who have given weight and influence to Maryland in that august body, I feel warranted in saying that among them all there has been no one more earnestly and conscientiously devoted to his public duties, more patriotic in his impulses, more genial in private life, or more worthy of the respect, esteem, and affection of his fellow-citizens than the man whose character and services we commemorate here to-day. The death of Senator Wilson was a loss not merely to Maryland, but to the country at large. Men of such energy, ability, fidelity, and high character are rare, either in or out of Congress.

My own acquaintance with him was comparatively slight, but so deeply was I impressed by his high qualities of mind and

heart, that I could not permit the occasion to pass without paying this brief, unstudied tribute to his memory. If Maryland in the years to come shall continue to send to represent her in the national councils such men as she has sent in the past, her escutcheon will lose no ray of its luster and she herself will maintain no secondary rank in the galaxy of States.

ADDRESS OF MR. RAYNER, OF MARYLAND.

Mr. SPEAKER: I can hardly hope to add anything new to the tributes that have been paid to the memory of Senator WILSON. Whatever has been said of him by those who knew him best has been well deserved. The State that I have the honor in part of representing upon this floor cherishes with pride the record of his public services. Maryland has frequently sent to the halls of Congress those who have taken a conspicuous part in the history of the country, but I am sure that no one who has ever represented her has surpassed Senator WILSON in a faithful devotion to her interests and in a patriotic performance of the duties of his elevated position. He was a true type of the best citizenship of his native State, and his career in official life furnishes an example worthy of emulation.

Upon occasions of this sort the strong ties of friendship and attachment sometimes lead us to overestimate the character of the dead, but I earnestly believe that in this case the plainest statement will furnish the highest panegyric that can possibly be paid to his memory. Almost every life contains an object-lesson, which, if studied and appreciated, may become of great profit and instruction to those who survive. Our lives, though closely analogous, are yet widely apart, and each one manifests

its own essential and peculiar features. The distinguishing quality of Judge WILSON'S public life was character, if I may use that word in its restricted signification.

Men prominent in the public service have attained distinction in various ways; some through the exhibition of dauntless courage at critical periods of the nation's history; others by great originality of thought and diplomacy in the arena of statesmanship; others by wise and successful management upon the field of party conflict; but his heroism and his originality consisted in the subordination of his private ambition to the public good, and in the use of the faculties and ability with which he was endowed for the benefit of his constituents and the welfare of his fellow-man. He was imbued with strong convictions, possessed of earnest purposes, and of a sincere desire to do whatever was right according to the impulses of his heart and the dictates of his conscience, regardless of any reward that it might bring to him or any hostile criticism that it might subject him to.

I would not give a reputation of that sort for all the applause that ever greeted the ear of victory, or for all the laurel wreaths that ever adorned the achievements of fame. What is victory, and what is fame, compared with character? What is success, compared with truth and sincerity? What do all these temporary and transient honors amount to, that are but the fleeting possession of a few days, and then forgotten, compared with that immortal honor of having done what is right, and dying with the conscious satisfaction of having faithfully maintained the principles of truth and justice at the post of public duty?

When we examine the record of Judge WILSON as a member of the Senate we will find the principles that I have adverted to illustrated to a remarkable degree. Over and over again, upon great public questions, differing from a large num-

ber of his constituents, he fearlessly gave expression to the conclusions and convictions of his own mind upon the subject-matter before him. He never permitted, in any instance that I know of, the paltry considerations of personal success or defeat to affect his judgment. When, after patient study and deliberation, his opinion became formed, he never changed it to gratify the ends of personal ambition.

In the examination of the many important matters in which he took a prominent part he was not in the habit of putting to himself the question, How will this affect my chances or my prospects for a continuance in office? But I apprehend the questions that he did address to himself were, Which is the just and honorable side that I ought to take upon this measure; upon which side does the path of duty lie? And I know that when he found it out he remained steadfast at his post, and did not swerve to the right and to the left and trim his sails to make for a harbor of safety.

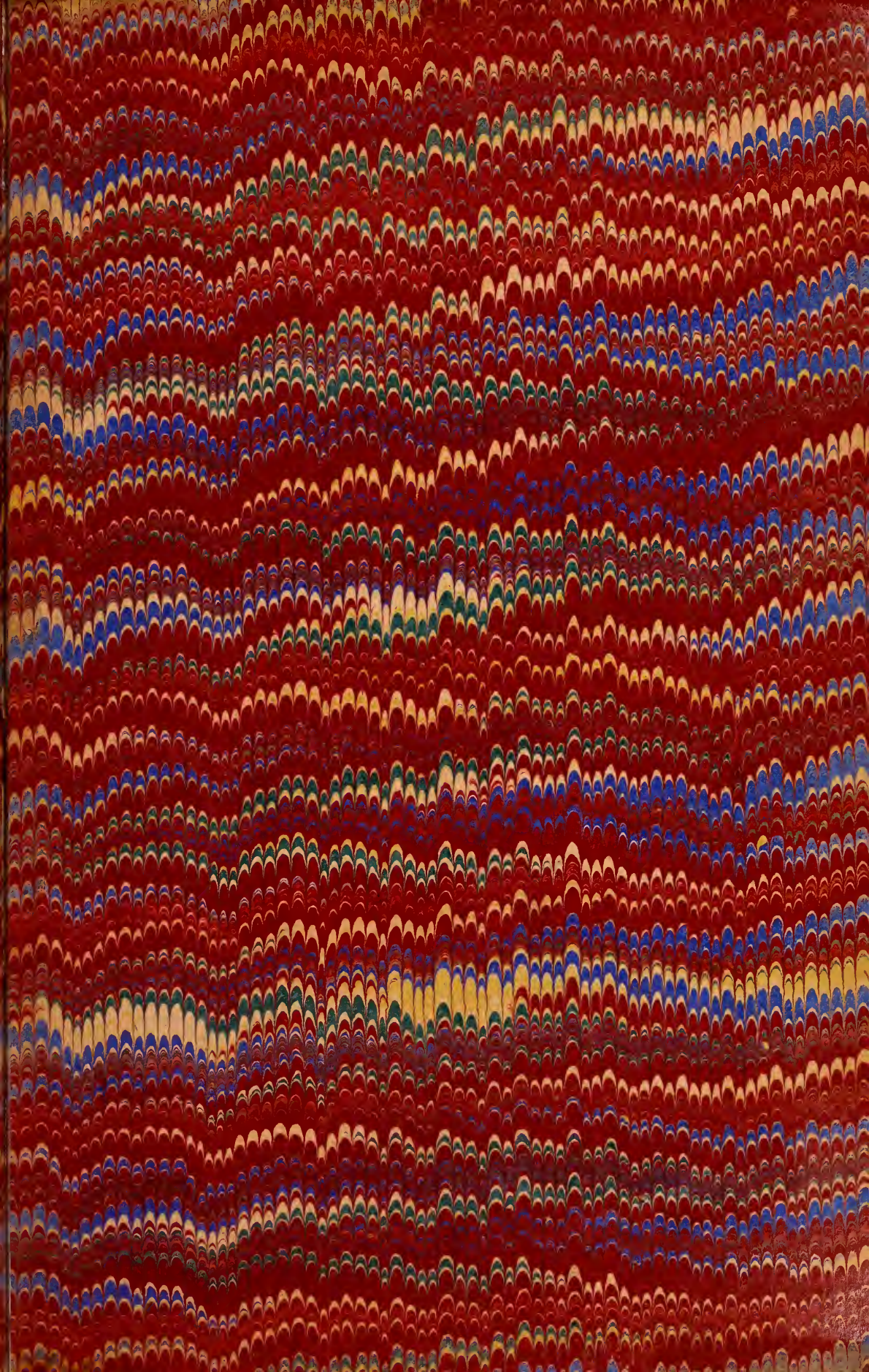
I believe that his life teaches a lesson, a great lesson, to the generation of young men who may succeed him in these halls. Here is the place where those who represent the intelligence and the wisdom of the country are supposed to assemble, and day after day we have exhibitions of great intellect and genius manifested from the places that surround us. There is no scarcity of competent and capable men in the councils of the nation. Providence seems to have endowed the human race with an abundance of brains, and when it comes to the use of those great arts which find so frequent an opportunity for display here, the arts of eloquence, and of satire, and of invective, and of ready, fluent argument in the heat of discussion and debate, we can more than hold our own with any representative assemblage in the world.

I want to say, however, Mr. Speaker, in closing this short tribute to the memory of my distinguished colleague, that while

he was a man gifted with those accomplishments and possessed of all the necessary qualifications that entitled him to reflect so much credit upon the State that he represented, in my opinion the priceless inheritance that he has left to his family and the inestimable legacy that he has bequeathed to those who may follow him, standing out in bold relief in all of his public utterances, are a pure and spotless character, that corruption never dared approach, and an exalted spirit of patriotism, indicative of the early days of the Republic, that scorned upon every occasion to make the slightest sacrifice of principle or the slightest compromise upon the honored traditions of his party, or in any degree to lower that lofty standard of public duty which he had so closely followed in every position of trust and honor that he ever held at the hands of a constituency who will cherish his memory, and who with grateful pride will preserve and treasure high up among the scrolls of her distinguished dead the recollection of his stainless name.

Mr. PAGE, of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I have received a telegram from my colleague [Mr. COMPTON], who intended to be present on this occasion, informing me that he is too unwell to attend, and asking that his absence be explained in that way.

On motion of Mr. PAGE, of Maryland, the resolutions were then adopted unanimously; and the House accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 40 minutes p. m.) adjourned until Tuesday, July 5, at 11 a. m.



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